



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF CEARÁ
OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OFFICIAL LETTER No. 5/2021/PROINTER/REITORIA

Fortaleza, 10 February 2021.

To whom it may concern,

Below are clarifications about the Federal University of Ceará's credit and grading system for graduate studies, as well as other relevant information.

Degree Types

Upon earning an undergraduate degree (i.e. a first-level degree), students are eligible for entry into graduate education (also known as postgraduate education).

In Brazil, *stricto sensu* (Latin for "in the narrow sense") is a designation used to refer to graduate studies encompassing master's and doctoral programs, as opposed to *lato sensu* degrees (Latin for "in the broad sense"), which are shorter, less complex graduate-level programs commonly referred to as *especializações* (specialization programs).

Credit

Contact hours are the primary device for assessing the fulfillment of credit requirements in Brazilian universities. At UFC, one credit comprises 16 contact hours, each of which in turn corresponds to 50 minutes of classroom instruction or activities deemed equivalent thereto, except in the case of practical activities, wherein each contact hour is at least 120 minutes long.

Grading

In tandem with most higher learning institutions in Brazil, the University's grading policy addresses graduate performance on a per-course basis.

Each course or activity is graded on a scale of 0.0 to 10.0, with a minimum final average grade of 5.0 being indicative of satisfactory work.

A student's enrollment will be considered terminated in one of the following circumstances:

- If the student fails the same course or activity twice;
- If the student fails two different courses or activities;
- If the overall average grade falls short of 7.0 over two consecutive semesters;
- If the maximum deadline for program completion has elapsed;
- If the student has twice failed his/her Qualifying Examination or the General Knowledge Examination;
- If the student has not officially requested a leave of absence which he/she has effectively taken.

Attendance

All graduate students are expected to attend a satisfactory number of sessions per course: no less than 75% of all in-person classes or activities deemed equivalent thereto.

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Sincerely,

Prof. Augusto Teixeira de Albuquerque
Vice Provost for International Affairs and Institutional Development
PROINTER – UFC



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