



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

OFFICIAL LETTER NO 1/2020/PROINTER/REITORIA

Fortaleza, 28 September 2020.

To whom it may concern,

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

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 equivalent activities.

Attendance

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

For activities such as final undergraduate projects or theses, supervised internships, clinical clerkships and other forms of training for real-life work situations, students must maintain an attendance record of at least 90% of the planned workload. In the case of a failure for excessive absences, the student will receive a final average grade of 0.0.

Failing the same course due to excessive absences more than once, or four course failures within the overall program owing to insufficient attendance, may cause the student to forfeit his/her enrollment at UFC for the duration of the following semester.

Reinstatement is feasible by way of signing a letter of intent provided by the coordinating office of the student's program. Signing this letter is therefore tantamount to acknowledging that one more failure for insufficient attendance will lead to the definitive termination of the student's enrollment at UFC.

Grading

In tandem with most higher learning institutions in Brazil, the University's grading policy addresses undergraduate performance on a per-course basis. Each course is graded on a scale of 0.0 to 10.0, with a minimum final average grade of 7.0 being indicative of satisfactory work.

If at the end of the term a student has not earned the minimum passing average grade of 7.0 but managed to achieve an average grade equal to or higher than 4.0, he/she is eligible for a makeup examination after which a new minimum average grade of 5.0 shall be considered sufficient for completion of the course.

A final average grade lower than 4.0 is in all respects equivalent to definitively failing the said course.

In the case of a failure for excessive absences, the student will receive a final average grade of 0.0.

Academic Performance Index

A student's Academic Performance Index (*Índice de Rendimento Acadêmico – IRA*) is calculated upon the completion of each academic term. It factors in the final course grades, each course's contact hour total, the

academic term in which the course was completed vis-à-vis the term in which it is expected to be taken, and the (non-)occurrence of interruptions (leaves of absence and/or full program withdrawals).

Academic efficacy is documented by means of the following indices:

- a) the individual IRA (indicative of and calculated based on a given student's performance) and;
- b) the general IRA (an index that is calculated within the bounds of a given undergraduate program, taking into account all the performances of every student in that program).

Degree Types

There are two main types of undergraduate degrees in Brazilian higher education:

Bacharelados (Bachelor's Degrees) are programs which enable graduates for broad-ranging work and research in a certain field of knowledge (such as medicine, social science, advertising, engineering, dentistry, and many others).

Licenciaturas (Licentiate Degrees) are education-oriented undergraduate programs with an emphasis on enabling individuals for work as primary and/or secondary education teachers in a given subject area (science, mathematics, physics, languages, among others).

Additionally, UFC also offers shorter, professionally oriented programs called *Cursos Tecnólogos* (Technologist Degrees) which provide specialized training for swift entry into a certain market (such as Information Technology, Industrial Processes, Tourism, and others).

Upon earning an undergraduate degree, students are eligible for entry into graduate education. At the graduate level, *stricto sensu* (Latin for "in the narrow sense") is a denomination used in Brazil to refer to master's and doctoral degrees, as opposed to *lato sensu* programs (Latin for "in the broad sense"), which are shorter, less complex degrees mostly referred to as *especializações* (specialization programs).

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Sincerely,

Prof. Augusto Teixeira de Albuquerque

Vice Provost for International Affairs and Institutional Development

[PROINTER - UFC](#)



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