



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

OFFICIAL LETTER NO 6/2026/COINTER_PROINTER/PROINTER/REITORIA

Fortaleza, 7 May 2026.

To whom it may concern,

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

Credits

Contact hours are the primary means of assessing the fulfillment of credit requirements in Brazilian universities. At UFC, one credit comprises 16 contact hours, each of which corresponds to 50 minutes of classroom instruction or equivalent academic 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 practical training, students must maintain an attendance record of at least 90% of the planned workload.

In the event of failure due to 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 accumulating four course failures throughout the program owing to insufficient attendance, may result in the student forfeiting his/her enrollment at UFC for the duration of the following semester.

Reinstatement is possible through the signing of a letter of intent provided by the coordinating office of the student's program. Signing this letter therefore constitutes acknowledgment that one additional failure due to insufficient attendance will lead to the definitive termination of the student's enrollment at UFC.

Grading

As is the case with most higher education institutions in Brazil, the University's grading policy evaluates undergraduate performance on a course-by-course basis. Each course is graded on a scale from 0.0 to 10.0, with a minimum final average grade of 7.0 considered indicative of satisfactory performance.

If, at the end of the term, a student has not achieved the minimum passing average grade of 7.0 but has obtained a final average grade equal to or higher than 4.0, he/she becomes eligible for a

makeup examination. Following this examination, a new minimum average grade of 5.0 is considered sufficient for successful completion of the course.

A final average grade lower than 4.0 is considered a definitive course failure. In cases of failure due to 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. The index takes into account final course grades, each course's total contact hours, the academic term in which the course was completed in relation to the term in which it was expected to be taken, and the occurrence or non-occurrence of interruptions (leaves of absence and/or full program withdrawals).

Academic performance is documented through the following indices:

- a) the individual IRA (calculated based on the performance of a specific student); and
- b) the general IRA (calculated within the scope of a given undergraduate program, taking into account the performance of all students enrolled in that program).

Degree Types

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

Bacharelados (Bachelor's Degrees) are programs designed to prepare graduates for broad professional practice and research within a specific field of knowledge, such as medicine, social sciences, advertising, engineering, dentistry, and many others.

Licenciaturas (Licentiate Degrees) are education-oriented undergraduate programs aimed at preparing individuals to work as primary and/or secondary school teachers in a given subject area, such as science, mathematics, physics, or languages.

Additionally, UFC also offers shorter, professionally oriented programs known as **Cursos Tecnólogos (Technologist Degrees)**, which provide specialized training for rapid entry into specific sectors of the job market, such as Information Technology, Industrial Processes, Tourism, and others.

Upon earning an undergraduate degree, students become eligible for admission into graduate education programs. At the graduate level, *stricto sensu* (Latin for “in the narrow sense”) refers in Brazil to master's and doctoral degrees, as opposed to *lato sensu* programs (Latin for “in the broad sense”), which are shorter and less academically rigorous programs generally referred to as *especializações* (specialization programs).

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Sincerely,

Prof. Rodrigo Rego, PhD
Director | Office of International Affairs
Assistant Vice Provost for Innovation and Inter-institutional Relations



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