



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

OFFICIAL LETTER NO 7/2026/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 for graduate studies, as well as other relevant information.

Degree Types

Upon earning an undergraduate degree (i.e., a first-level degree), students become eligible for admission into graduate education (also referred to as postgraduate education).

In Brazil, *stricto sensu* (Latin for “in the narrow sense”) is the 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 and less academically rigorous graduate-level programs commonly referred to as *especializações* (specialization programs).

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 activities deemed academically equivalent thereto, except in the case of practical activities, in which each contact hour corresponds to at least 120 minutes.

Grading

As is the case with most higher education institutions in Brazil, the University's grading policy evaluates graduate performance on a course-by-course basis. Each course or academic activity is graded on a scale from 0.0 to 10.0, with a minimum final average grade of 5.0 considered indicative of satisfactory performance.

A student's enrollment may be terminated under any of the following circumstances:

- if the student fails the same course or academic activity twice;
- if the student fails two different courses or academic activities;
- if the student's overall average grade remains below 7.0 for two consecutive semesters;
- if the maximum deadline for program completion has elapsed;
- if the student twice fails the Qualifying Examination or the General Knowledge Examination; or

- if the student takes a leave of absence without having officially requested it.

Attendance

All graduate students are expected to attend a satisfactory number of sessions for each course or academic activity, in accordance with the attendance requirements established by the respective program and the University's academic regulations.

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Sincerely,

Prof. Rodrigo Rego, PhD
Director | Office of International Affairs



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