

# **ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES**

## **Regulations Governing Undergraduate Studies (for 2019-20 or earlier Year 1 Intakes, 2020-21 or earlier Year 2 Intakes and 2021-22 or earlier Senior Year Intakes)**

### **1. Rules and Regulations**

- 1.1 Students are required to comply with all the rules and regulations stipulated by the University.
- 1.2 The University may from time to time make new rules and regulations or make amendments to existing rules and regulations. The Registrar will promulgate new rules and regulations and amendments to them by notices. Updated regulations should be regarded as the final authority.
- 1.3 Exemptions from the regulations, which may be made in exceptional cases or under special circumstances, are subject to approval by the Senate.

### **2. The Academic Year**

The University academic year starts at the beginning of September and ends at the end of August in the following calendar year. The academic year consists of two terms, each covering approximately 15 weeks of academic activities, and where appropriate there may be an intensive summer term usually of a shorter duration.

### **3. Admission of Students**

- 3.1 The admission of a student to the University is based on suitability and other factors which individual programmes consider relevant. There should be no discrimination on the grounds of sex, age, race, religion, ethnic origin, disabilities or special educational needs.
- 3.2 The Senate will determine the entrance requirements and equivalent qualifications for individual programmes and admission procedures. Within University policy guidelines, programmes should have autonomy in admitting their students as long as they fulfil the relevant entrance requirements.

### **4. Student Classification [applicable to students admitted from 2016-17]**

- 4.1 Each student will be designated as a Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 or Year 4 student based on the number of credits obtained including those granted through credit transfer.
- 4.2 A student (except for a transfer student referred to in Regulations 4.3-4.5 below) who has obtained 30 credits, 60 credits or 90 credits or above will be designated respectively as a Year 2, Year 3 or Year 4 student in the following term.
- 4.3 A transfer student who is granted 21 credits or above by credit transfer will be designated as a Year 2 student upon admission. The transfer student will be designated respectively as a Year 3 or a Year 4 student in the following term when he/she has obtained 54 credits or 87 credits or above.
- 4.4 Notwithstanding Regulation 4.3 above, a transfer student who has completed Year 1 of a local two-year sub-degree (such as associate degree or higher diploma) programme

accredited and recognised as a Level 4 qualification of the Qualifications Framework may be admitted as a special case and will be designated as a Year 2 student upon admission. This kind of year designation does not reflect the number of credits the student earned for fulfillment of curriculum requirements, and the expected duration before he/she can graduate. The actual number of transfer credits to be granted for fulfillment of curriculum requirements will follow Regulation 9. The student will be designated as a Year 3 or a Year 4 student in the following term when he/she has obtained 54 credits or 87 credits or above, including those granted through credit transfer.

4.5 A transfer student who is granted 54 credits or above by credit transfer will be designated as a Year 3 student upon admission. From 2016-17 intake, exceptional approval can be granted for a transfer student who is granted 51 credits be designated as a Year 3 student upon admission. The Programme Director/Department Head concerned in consultation with the Dean<sup>(Note 1)</sup> concerned may present a case with justifications to the Chairman of the Undergraduate Admissions Committee for consideration and approval. The transfer student will be designated as a Year 4 student in the following term when he/she has obtained 87 credits or above.

4.6 To qualify for full-time status, a student is required to take at least 12 credits in any one term. A part-time student will take no more than 11 credits in a term.

4.7 Unless otherwise approved, a student must register as a full-time student when first admitted by the University.

#### **4. Student Classification** [applicable to students admitted between 2013-14 and 2015-16]

4.1 Each student will be designated as a Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 or Year 4 student based on the number of credits obtained including those granted through credit transfer.

4.2 A student (except for a transfer student referred to in Regulations 4.3-4.6 below) who has obtained 30 credits, 60 credits or 90 credits or above will be designated respectively as a Year 2, Year 3 or Year 4 student in the following term.

4.3 A transfer student who has graduated from a local sub-degree (such as associate degree or higher diploma) programme accredited and recognised as a Level 4 qualification of the Qualifications Framework will be designated as a Year 3 student upon admission. This kind of year designation does not reflect the number of credits the student earned for fulfillment of curriculum requirements, and the expected duration before he/she can graduate. The actual number of transfer credits to be granted for fulfillment of curriculum requirements will follow Regulation 9. The student will be designated as a Year 4 student in the following term when he/she has obtained 87 credits or above, including those granted through credit transfer.

4.4 A transfer student who has completed Year 1 of a local two-year sub-degree (such as associate degree or higher diploma) programme accredited and recognised as a Level 4 qualification of the Qualifications Framework may be admitted as a special case and will be designated as a Year 2 student upon admission. This kind of year designation does not

---

Note 1 For the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Data Science programme, the role of the Dean is taken up by the Dean of the Faculty of Business. This is applicable to various sections of the Regulations concerning the students on the programme, inter alia, course registration, course requirements, study load, credit transfer/exemption, adding/dropping courses, change of programme, leave of absence/suspension/withdrawal, academic standing, etc..

reflect the number of credits the student earned for fulfillment of curriculum requirements, and the expected duration before he/she can graduate. The actual number of transfer credits to be granted for fulfillment of curriculum requirements will follow Regulation 9. The student will be designated as a Year 3 or a Year 4 student in the following term when he/she has obtained 54 credits or 87 credits or above, including those granted through credit transfer.

- 4.5 A transfer student except for those mentioned in Regulations 4.3 and 4.4 who is granted 21 credits or above by credit transfer will be designated as a Year 2 student upon admission. The transfer student will be designated respectively as a Year 3 or a Year 4 student in the following term when he/she has obtained 54 credits or 87 credits or above.
- 4.6 A transfer student except for those mentioned in Regulations 4.3 and 4.4 who is granted 54 credits or above by credit transfer will be designated as a Year 3 student upon admission. Exceptional approval can be granted for a transfer student who is granted 51 credits or above (but less than 54 credits) be designated as a Year 3 student upon admission. The Programme Director/Department Head concerned in consultation with the Dean concerned may present a case with justifications to the Chairman of the Undergraduate Admissions Committee for consideration and approval. The transfer student will be designated as a Year 4 student in the following term when he/she has obtained 87 credits or above.
- 4.7 To qualify for full-time status, a student is required to take at least 12 credits in any one term. A part-time student will take no more than 11 credits in a term.
- 4.8 Unless otherwise approved, a student must register as a full-time student when first admitted by the University.

## **5. Registration**

- 5.1 An applicant who has been offered admission to an approved programme of study is required to register with the Registry on a specified date and is considered to have been admitted to such programme on the date of his/her first registration. Thereafter, the student should register on the specified date before the beginning of each subsequent term until he/she graduates.
- 5.2 Registration includes payment of the fees due and enrolment of courses/sections. An applicant who fails to pay the prescribed fees or register on the relevant specified dates is considered as having forgone his/her place offered by the University. A student who wishes to continue his/her study at the University but fails to pay the prescribed fees after a lapse of ten days or fails to register before the last day for registration is considered as having withdrawn from studies at the University.
- 5.3 An applicant or a student is deemed to have been registered only after he/she has completed the registration procedure for the term concerned.
- 5.4 A student who wishes to change from full-time to part-time or *vice versa* is required to notify the Registry of the change and number of credits he/she intends to enrol in the next term by a date specified by the Registry.
- 5.5 A student is required to pay the prescribed amount of tuition fee and all other relevant fees.

- 5.6 A student who for special reasons seeks permission for deferment of his/her registration may apply in writing to the Registrar at least one week before the specified date for registration. A fee for late registration will be charged but no student is allowed to register after the last day for registration stipulated in the University Calendar.
- 5.7 Students must follow registration procedures and any special instructions issued by the Registrar. They should familiarise themselves with the University regulations and the curricular structure of their programmes. They must pay particular attention to course and credit requirements, prerequisites for courses, normal study loads, and graduation requirements.
- 5.8 Each student is required to meet in person with his/her academic adviser to consult him/her on his/her programme of studies at least once a term, including one meeting before the specific course registration session, if any. If a student is on overseas/Mainland exchange studies, he/she is required to seek advice from his/her academic adviser through other means. For other exceptional circumstances under which a student is unable to meet the academic adviser in person, approval has to be sought from the Programme Director or Head of Department concerned for other arrangements. For a student approved to take double Majors, in addition to the academic adviser of the first Major, he/she is required to meet the academic adviser of the second Major.
- 5.9 Credits will not be granted for any course in which a student has not formally enrolled. Any information entered into the student record system through a student's login account is recognised as input by the student. A student shall keep confidential use of his/her student account and password.
- 5.10 Upon first registration, each student is issued with a Student Identity Card free of charge. A fee will be charged for each replacement card. The student should take good care of the card and present it to staff for inspection as and when necessary.
- 5.11 A full-time student of the University is not allowed to pursue simultaneously any programme at any tertiary institution. A student in breach of this regulation is subject to having his/her studies at the University discontinued. In case a student wishes to take a course offered by another tertiary institution, prior approval by the Programme Director/Head of Department of his/her Major programme<sup>(Note 2)</sup> should be obtained.
- 5.12 A full-time student should not take up any full-time employment, paid or unpaid, during the term.

---

Note 2 The role of the Programme Director/Head of Department is taken up by the Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) of the Faculty of Arts for a student registered for an interdisciplinary Major offered by the Faculty of Arts. This is applicable to various sections of the Regulations concerning studies of the student, e.g. registration, course requirements, study load, credit transfer/exemption, adding/dropping courses, change of programme, leave of absence/suspension/withdrawal, academic standing, etc.

## 6. Course Requirements

- 6.1 A student is required to register for a study programme/Major programme<sup>(Note 3)</sup> and in addition may register for one or two Minor programme(s). The requirements for a Major programme and a Minor programme are specified in the curriculum concerned.
- 6.2 A student with good academic achievements may register for another Major programme<sup>(Note 4)</sup> upon approval by the Programme Directors/Heads of Academic Units of both the first and the second Majors. The student shall have achieved a Cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or above by the time when the application is made. The application can be made after the first term of the second year of study, and by the end of the add/drop period in the first term of the final year of study. The student approved to register for double Majors may need to study for more than 4 years in order to fulfill the requirements for attaining double Majors.
- 6.3 For a student approved to take double Majors, the maximum number of credits for double counting to fulfil two categories of requirements among First Major, Second Major, Core Curriculum Cluster and free electives, is 27. Additional credits for double counting could be granted to these students upon approval by the Programme Directors/Heads of Academic Units of the first and second Majors on a case-by-case basis. The number of courses to be double counted between Core Curriculum Cluster courses and each Major is limited to two.
- 6.4 The registration for a Minor programme should be done by the end of the add/drop period in the first term of his/her final year of study. Normally a Minor programme requires students to take 15 credits of courses. A Minor programme can require more than 15 credits of course if justified and approved. A student may use the credits assigned for free electives in the curriculum of his/her registered programme of studies to take courses leading to a Minor programme. Double counting of course credits by using free electives leading to fulfillment of requirements for a Minor programme is allowed. The number of courses to be double counted between Core Curriculum Cluster courses and each Minor is limited to two.

---

Note 3 A study programme refers to Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Business Administration - Risk and Insurance Management, Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Global Development and Sustainability, Bachelor of Science in Data Science, or Bachelor of Social Sciences. A Major programme refers to Bachelor of Arts in Animation and Digital Arts, Bachelor of Arts in Chinese, Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary English Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Global Liberal Arts, Bachelor of Arts in History, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts in Translation, Bachelor of Arts in Visual Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Literature, History and Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts in Film and Media Studies, a student-designed Major, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Business Administration - Risk and Insurance Management, Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Global Development and Sustainability, Bachelor of Science in Data Science or Bachelor of Social Sciences.

Note 4 The second Major consists of 48 credits or more credits, and can be Animation and Digital Arts, Chinese, Cultural Studies, Contemporary English Studies, Global Liberal Arts, History, Philosophy, Translation, Visual Studies, "Chinese Literature, History and Philosophy", "Film and Media Studies", a student-designed Major, Business Administration, Global Development and Sustainability, Data Science or Social Sciences. This provision does not allow for BBA/BSocSc students to register for two Stream(s)/Discipline Major(s) under the same Major programme. Nonetheless, with effect from the 2022-23 academic year, BSocSc students with a Cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or above are allowed to register for two Streams/Discipline Majors in the BSocSc programme.

- 6.5 A student is required to complete before graduation the University-wide required courses including Core Curriculum<sup>(Note 5)</sup>, English and Chinese languages, as specified in the curriculum of his/her Major programme. In addition, a student is required to fulfil the requirements of the Integrated Learning Programme and Civic Engagement/Service-Learning<sup>(Note 6)</sup> before graduation.
- 6.6 A student should take courses specified in the curriculum concerned unless written approval of an alternative curriculum has been granted by the Programme Director/Head of the Academic Unit concerned (or the Dean for a student whose Major programme has not been allocated)/Director of Core Curriculum.
- 6.7 No double counting of course credits for meeting curriculum requirements is allowed except for those specified in Regulations 6.3 and 6.4 above.
- 6.8 If there is a prerequisite for a course, a student must meet it before taking the course concerned.
- 6.9 If there is a co-requisite for a course, a student must take both courses in the same term.
- 6.10 If a course has another course as an exclusion under the situation when the two courses overlap significantly in content, a student is allowed to enrol only in one of the two courses during his/her period of study, unless he/she fails any one. Should the course be a required course in his/her Major or Minor programme, he/she is not allowed to enrol in the other course except otherwise approved as a substitute for the required course as prescribed by Regulation 16.6.
- 6.11 A student must take his/her own responsibility in ensuring that he/she meets the requirements specified in Regulations 6.8, 6.9 and 6.10 unless such are waived at the discretion of the Programme Director/Head of the Academic Unit concerned under exceptional circumstances. The student alone will be responsible for any consequences if he/she chooses to take a course contravening the requirements specified in Regulations 6.8, 6.9 and 6.10 without special approval.

## **7. Change of Personal Particulars**

- 7.1 A student should retain the full name(s) entered on his/her Hong Kong Identity Card or Passport. Under special circumstances, however, a student may obtain from the Registry an application form for changing personal particulars, complete and return it to the Registry, together with necessary supporting documents.
- 7.2 A student should inform the Registry immediately of any change of address or other particulars.

---

Note 5 Effective from the 2018-19 intake, students are assigned to take CCC8011 Critical Thinking: Analysis and Argumentation and CCC8012 The Making of Hong Kong in the first year, and CCC8013 The Process of Science and CCC8014 China in World History in the second year (or the third year for those designated as Year 3 students upon admission).

Note 6 Students admitted in 2015-16 or before, students admitted to Year 2 in 2016-17 and students admitted to Year 3 in 2016-17 and 2017-18 are required to fulfil the Civic Engagement requirement. All first year intakes from 2016-17 onwards, students admitted to Year 2 from 2017-18 onwards and students admitted to Year 3 from 2018-19 onwards are required to fulfil the Service-Learning graduation requirement.

## **8. Normal Study Load**

- 8.1 A student is required to take 120 or more credits of courses as stipulated in the student's programme curriculum before graduation.
- 8.2 The normal study load of a full-time first year student should be 15 in a term and the maximum study load should be 30 credits in an academic year. Nevertheless, the Programme Director/Head of Department concerned can grant instant approval to a student to exceed the maximum study limit by 1 credit. Moreover, a first year student who has failed course(s) may take extra credits to make up the number of credits of the failed course(s) in the summer term in the first year with special approval from the Programme Director/Head of Department concerned. The extra credits shall be limited to six and will not be counted in the maximum study load of the following year.
- 8.3 The normal study load of a second year or above full-time student in a term should be in the range of 15 to 18 credits and the maximum study load in an academic year should be 33 credits. The maximum study load for a second year or above full-time student approved to take double Majors is 36 credits in an academic year. Nevertheless, the Programme Director/Head of Department concerned can grant instant approval to students to exceed the maximum study limit by 1 credit. In exceptional circumstances, approval can be granted by the Programme Director/Head of Department concerned for a student to take an extra course of 3 credits in excess of the maximum study load in an academic year upon recommendation of the academic adviser concerned.
- 8.4 A final year student who is not on academic probation may take a maximum study load of 39 credits in the academic year concerned, 18 credits in the first term and 21 credits in the second term, subject to the approval by the Programme Director/Head of Department concerned upon recommendation of the academic adviser concerned. Exceptions to the maximum study load in the first term can, however, be granted by the Programme Director/Head of Department concerned on a case-by-case basis with a view to facilitating the student concerned to graduate not beyond the normal study period.
- 8.5 A part-time student will take no more than 11 credits in a term.
- 8.6 A student can take optional summer term courses, and the maximum study load in a summer term is two courses or six credits. Credits of courses taken in summer term(s), if any, are counted in the maximum study load for the academic year or in the next academic year as appropriate.
- 8.7 In exceptional circumstances, approval can be granted by the Programme Director/Head of Department concerned for a student to take up to two courses in a summer term with payment upon recommendation of the academic adviser concerned. Notwithstanding Regulation 8.6, credits of paid courses in summer term(s), if any, will not be counted in the maximum study load for the academic year or in the next academic year. [This stipulation applies to students admitted in 2013-14 or after.]

## **9. Credit Transfer and Course Exemption**

- 9.1 A student who has passed public, professional, or other examinations/tests recognised by the University or has successfully completed a course at an appropriate level offered by the University or another tertiary institution may apply for credit transfer/course exemption.

- 9.2 Normally, a student may not be granted credit transfer/course exemption for more than 50% of the required number of credits for the academic award or the Minor programme. The limit does not include credit transfer or course exemption associated with approved student exchange programmes.
- 9.3 For Core Curriculum courses, credit transfer/course exemption shall be limited to two common core courses and a maximum of 15<sup>@</sup> credits of cluster courses. Such limit shall apply to approved exchange programmes, notwithstanding Regulation 9.2 above, but exceptions to the limits may be granted by the Director of Core Curriculum on a case-by-case basis. (<sup>@</sup> with a maximum of 9 credits until the 2015-16 academic year; 18 credits from 2016-17 to 2017-18 academic year)
- 9.4 ***Block Credit Transfer for Graduates from Local Sub-degree Programmes Accredited with Level 4 of the Qualifications Framework for Senior Year Entry*** [effective from 2015-16 intake]
- 9.4.1 Block credit transfer will be granted to an eligible sub-degree, viz. Associate Degree and Higher Diploma, graduate who is designated as a Year 3 student upon admission, as prescribed in Regulation 9.4.2.
- 9.4.2 Effective for 2015-16 intake, block credit transfer of 39<sup>^</sup> credits will be granted with details as follows:
- (a) 12 credits of the Core Curriculum comprising 6 credits in the Common Core (CCC8001 Logic and Critical Thinking and CCC8002/CCC8012 The Making of Hong Kong<sup>\*</sup>) and 6 credits in the cluster courses<sup>#</sup>;
  - (b) 3 credits of Chinese language course (normally LCC1010 Practical Chinese I);
  - (c) 3 credits of English language course (normally LCE1010 English for Communication I); and
  - (d) 21<sup>^</sup> credits of free electives.

<sup>^</sup> For BBA Accounting Stream admittees (and for BBA-Risk and Insurance Management programme admittees effective from 2018-19 intake), as they are required to take a total of 18 credits of free electives under the programme structure, only 18 credits of free electives can be transferred. Thus, only 36 credits instead of 39 credits in total will be transferred.

<sup>\*</sup> In the case of graduates from the sub-degree programmes offered by The Community College at Lingnan University who have completed GEA103X Logic and Critical Thinking and GEB237X Understanding Morality, the 6 transfer credits will include CCC8003 Understanding Morality instead of CCC8002 The Making of Hong Kong.

<sup>#</sup> The transfer student will need to take 15 credits in the clusters (5 courses) with one from each of the five clusters.

Effective from 2016-17 intake to 2018-19 intake<sup>@</sup>, block credit transfer of 51<sup>^</sup> credits will be granted with details as follows:

- (a) 24 credits of the Core Curriculum comprising 6 credits in the Common Core (CCC8001 Logic and Critical Thinking and CCC8002/CCC8012 The Making of Hong Kong<sup>\*</sup>) and 18 credits in the cluster courses<sup>#</sup>;



- (b) 3 credits of Chinese language course (normally LCC1010 Practical Chinese I);
- (c) 3 credits of English language course (normally LCE1010 English for Communication I); and
- (d) 21<sup>^</sup> credits of free electives.

@ In the event that students are unable to complete the two required Common Core courses (viz. CCC8003 Understanding Morality and CCC8004 World History and Civilisations) by the last offering year, they will be required to apply for Common Core substitution with sound justifications subject to approval of the Director of CCGE on a case-by-case basis.

<sup>^</sup> For BBA Accounting Stream admittees (and for BBA-Risk and Insurance Management programme admittees effective from 2018-19 intake), as they are required to take a total of 18 credits of free electives under the programme structure, only 18 credits of free electives can be transferred. Thus, only 48 credits instead of 51 credits in total will be transferred.

\* In the case of graduates from the sub-degree programmes offered by The Community College at Lingnan University who have completed GEA103X Logic and Critical Thinking and GEB237X Understanding Morality, the 6 transfer credits will include CCC8003 Understanding Morality instead of CCC8002 The Making of Hong Kong.

# The transfer student will need to take the remaining 3 credits of cluster course from the “Science, Technology and Society” cluster.

Effective for 2019-20 intake, block credit transfer of 51 credits will be granted with details as follows:

- (a) 21 credits of the Core Curriculum comprising 6 credits in the Common Core (CCC8011 Critical Thinking: Analysis and Argumentation and CCC8012 The Making of Hong Kong) and 15 credits in the cluster courses;
- (b) 3 credits of Chinese language course (normally LCC1010 Chinese Communication I);
- (c) 3 credits of English language course (normally LUE1001 University English I); and
- (d) 24 credits of free electives.

Effective for 2020-21 intake, block credit transfer of 54\* credits will be granted with details as follows:

- (a) 21 credits of the Core Curriculum comprising 6 credits in the Common Core (CCC8011 Critical Thinking: Analysis and Argumentation and CCC8012 The Making of Hong Kong) and 15 credits in the cluster courses;
- (b) 3 credits of Chinese language course (normally LCC1010 Chinese Communication I);
- (c) 3 credits of English language course (normally LUE1001 University English I); and
- (d) 27\* credits of free electives.

\* For admittees to the BBA Accounting Stream and BBA-Risk and Insurance Management programme, as they are required to take a total of 24 credits of free electives under the programme structure, only 24 credits of free electives can be transferred. Thus, only 51 credits instead of 54 credits in total will be transferred.

Effective from 2021-22 intake, block credit transfer of 60\* credits will be granted with details as follows:

- (a) 21 credits of the Core Curriculum comprising 6 credits in the Common Core (CCC8011 Critical Thinking: Analysis and Argumentation and CCC8012 The Making of Hong Kong) and 15 credits in the cluster courses;
- (b) 3 credits of Chinese language course (normally LCC1010 Chinese Communication I);
- (c) 3 credits of English language course (normally LUE1001 University English I);
- (d) 6 credits of programme required/elective courses; and
- (e) 27\* credits of free electives;

\* For admittees to the BBA Accounting Stream/Major and BBA-Risk and Insurance Management programme, as they are required to take a total of 24 credits of free electives under the programme structure, only 24 credits of free electives can be transferred. Thus, only 57 credits instead of 60 credits in total will be transferred.

9.4.3 The transfer student may apply for additional credit transfer/course exemption following provisions in other sections of the academic regulations, in particular, subject to the limits stipulated under Regulations 9.2 and 9.3.

**9.5 *Block Credit Transfer for Students/Graduates from Local Sub-degree Programmes Accredited with Level 4 of the Qualifications Framework for First-Year-First-Degree (FYFD) Entry***

9.5.1 Block credit transfer will be granted to an eligible sub-degree, viz. Associate Degree and Higher Diploma, student/graduate who is designated as a Year 2 student but using FYFD places upon admission, as prescribed in Regulation 9.5.2.

9.5.2 Effective from 2021-22 intake, block credit transfer of 30 credits will be granted with details as follows:

- (a) 12 credits of any four cluster courses of the Core Curriculum;
- (b) 3 credits of English language course (normally LUE1001 University English I); and
- (c) 15 credits of free electives.

9.5.3 The transfer student may apply for additional credit transfer/course exemption following provisions in other sections of the academic regulations, in particular, subject to the limits stipulated under Regulations 9.2 and 9.3.

**9.6 *Block Credit Transfer for Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) / International Baccalaureate (IB) / GCE Advanced Level (GCEAL) / International Advanced Level (IAL) Holders***

9.6.1 Effective from 2021-22 intake, block credit transfer of 15\* credits on free electives will be granted to HKALE/ IB/ GCEAL/ IAL holders with seven years of secondary schooling.

\*9 credits on free electives for students of 2018-19 intake to 2020-21 intake

9.6.2 The transfer student may apply for additional credit transfer/course exemption following provisions in other sections of the academic regulations, in particular, subject to the limits stipulated under Regulations 9.2 and 9.3.

**9.7 *Credit Transfer Applicable to All Students***

9.7.1 In case there is a similar course being offered by the University, the student may be exempted from taking the course and granted with equivalent credits, if the application is approved.

9.7.2 In case there is no similar course being offered by the University, the student may be exempted from taking a free elective course, or in some cases a course in the Core Curriculum if deemed appropriate, and granted with equivalent credits, if the application is approved.

9.7.3 In case there is no similar course being offered by the University but the course completed at another recognised tertiary institution falls in the Major discipline(s) of the student, the student may be exempted from taking a course in the Major discipline(s) and granted with equivalent credits, if the application is approved.

9.7.4 A minimum grade C is required for credit transfer of courses taken in undergraduate or sub-degree programmes<sup>+</sup>.

**9.8 *Course Exemption***

In case there is a similar course being offered by the University, the student may be exempted from taking the course, if the application is approved. However, credits are not granted, and the student has to take another course (may be a specified course or any other course) to make up for the total number of credits required for graduation.

**9.9 *Approval Procedures for Credit Transfer (other than block credit transfer prescribed in Regulations 9.4, 9.5 and 9.6) and Course Exemption***

9.9.1 A student is required to obtain from the Registry an application form for credit transfer/course exemption, complete and submit the application before the beginning of a term. For year courses, applications should be submitted before the beginning of the first term. All such applications must be accompanied by original supporting documents and their photocopies. The Registry will return the original supporting documents to the applicant after inspection.

---

<sup>+</sup> not applicable to courses taken in an approved student exchange programme

- 9.9.2 The application should be submitted to the Head of the Academic Unit offering the similar course or to the Programme Director/Head of Department of his/her Major programme when no similar course is identified. In case the Programme Director considers that the course taken falls in the Major discipline(s) of the student as referred to in Regulation 9.7.3, he/she should refer the application to the Head of the Academic Unit offering courses in the discipline for endorsement. In case the Programme Director/Head of Academic Unit considers that the course/examination taken may be considered a course in the Core Curriculum, he/she should refer the application to the Director of Core Curriculum.
- 9.9.3 The application should be approved by the Programme Director/Head of Academic Unit concerned /Director of Core Curriculum, who should forward it to the Registry within two weeks after the beginning of a term.
- 9.9.4 For an application in relation to a University-wide required course, as prescribed in Regulation 6.5, the Programme Director/Head of Academic Unit concerned/Director of Core Curriculum should consider the application in accordance with the common standard of exemption criteria approved by the Senate, if any.
- 9.10 A student should not enrol in a course for which he/she has been granted exemption (with or without credits). If the student has enrolled in a course and is subsequently granted exemption (with or without credits), he/she is not required to apply to drop the exempted course.
- 9.11 No grade will be given (with exceptions specified in Regulations 9.12 and 11.5) but all exempted or recognised courses and the number of credits transferred will be shown in the student's transcript.
- 9.12 For a student who has participated in an approved student exchange programme of the University, credits of recognised courses obtained from the partner institution will normally be transferred to his/her undergraduate degree programme at the University as approved by the Programme Director/Head of Department of his/her Major programme. The actual grades/marks of recognised courses obtained in the partner institution will be shown in the transcript of the student, but will not be counted in the calculation of grade point averages.

## **10. Adding and Dropping Courses and Changing Courses / Sections / Tutorials**

- 10.1 A student who wishes to add or drop a course, or change a section or tutorial group of a course after registration must complete the relevant procedure as prescribed by the Registry. The add/drop period shall start four days before class commencement and end six calendar days after the beginning of the term concerned.
- 10.2 Only under very special circumstances may a student apply in writing to both the Programme Director/Head of his/her Department and the Registrar for permission to add or drop a course after the stipulated deadline, but no student is allowed to drop a course after a lapse of one-third of the term.
- 10.3 A student who adds a course or changes a course or section of a course without going through the prescribed procedure will not be given a grade or credits for the course.

- 10.4 A student who drops a course without going through the prescribed procedure will be given an "F" grade for the course.

## **11. Change of Study Programme or Major Programme**

- 11.1 A Year 1 student is normally not allowed to change from one study programme to another.

- 11.2 A student who wishes for special reasons to transfer from one study programme or Major programme to another may consult his/her academic adviser. To apply for programme transfer, the student must complete a prescribed form obtainable from the Registry. The timeframe to make the application is stipulated below:

BBA – Students are allowed to apply for change of study programme or Major programme after the end of Term 2 classes of the first year of studies and the change shall take effect from Term 1 of the second year of studies, if the application is approved. Students may also apply to change later, i.e. after Term 1 or Term 2 classes of second year of studies, for the change to take effect in the following regular term.

BLA – Students are allowed to apply for change of study programme or Major programme after the end of Term 2 classes of the first year of studies and the change shall take effect from Term 1 of the second year of studies, if the application is approved. Students may also apply to change later, i.e. after Term 1 or Term 2 classes of second year of studies, for the change to take effect in the following regular term.

BSc – Students are allowed to apply for change of study programme or Major programme after the end of Term 2 classes of the first year of studies and the change shall take effect from Term 1 of the second year of studies, if the application is approved. Students may also apply to change later, i.e. after Term 1 or Term 2 classes of second year of studies, for the change to take effect in the following regular term.

BSocSc – Students are allowed to apply for change of study programme or Major programme after the end of Term 1 classes of the second year of studies and the change shall take effect from Term 2 of the second year of studies, if the application is approved. Students may also apply to change later, i.e. after Term 2 classes of second year of studies, for the change to take effect from Term 1, of the third year of studies.

BA – Students admitted via programme-based admission who have studied at least two courses in the Major discipline in the first year of studies are allowed to apply for change of study programme/Major programme after the end of Term 2 classes of the first year, and the change shall take effect from Term 1 of the second year of studies, if the application is approved.

All BA students are allowed to apply for change of study programme or Major programme after the end of Term 2 classes of the second year of studies and the change shall take effect from Term 1 of the third year of studies, if the application is approved.

- 11.3 The approval of the Programme Director/Head of Department of the original study programme or Major programme and the study programme or Major programme the student intends to join should be obtained.
- 11.4 No student is allowed to join a study programme or Major programme without fulfilling the entrance requirements at the study programme and/or Major programme level or equivalence.
- 11.5 All courses taken under the original study programme or Major programme, regardless of passed or failed, will be kept in the academic records of the student. Both grades and credits of these courses will be transferred automatically to the new study programme or Major programme. The course credits earned will be counted towards fulfilment of curriculum and graduation requirements of the new Major programme, where appropriate. All courses will be counted towards the calculation of G.P.As.
- 11.6 Normally not more than 75% of the required number of credits for the award of the degree can be granted by credit transfer.
- 11.7 The periods of studies in both original and new study programmes or Major programmes will be counted within the maximum study period specified in Regulation 13.2.
- 11.8 A student may be advised to transfer to another programme if the Programme Director/Head of Department of the student's current programme, in considering his/her aptitude and suitability, deems it more appropriate to transfer the student to another programme.
- 11.9 A student who wishes to transfer from one study programme or Major programme to another should be aware that he/she may need to study and pay tuition fee beyond the normal study period of 4 years.

## **12. Class Attendance and Leave of Absence**

- 12.1 A student should attend all lectures, tutorials and other class activities, tests and examinations and complete the work assigned by the teachers of the courses in which the student has enrolled.
- 12.2 Students are expected to attend classes and other class activities punctually and regularly, to the satisfaction of the teachers of courses. Each course may have specific requirements for student attendance. Appropriate sanctions, where necessary, would be approved by the Board of Examiners<sup>(Note 7)</sup> concerned.
- 12.3 A student who is unable to attend classes should inform the teacher concerned in writing at the earliest opportunity.

---

Note 7 For the BA programmes/courses offered by the Faculty of Arts, all examination matters will be dealt with by the Department Board concerned. For Interdisciplinary Majors and Student-designed Majors offered by the Faculty of Arts, the performance of students (including the Directed Research Projects undertaken by them) is overseen by relevant review committees which report to the Executive Committee in Arts. For courses offered by the CEAL and the CLEAC, examination matters will be handled by the Boards of the Centres. For courses directly offered by the Office of Core Curriculum and the OSL, examination matters will be overseen respectively by the Core Curriculum Committee and the Service-Learning Programme Committee. For science courses offered by the Science Unit, examination matters will be overseen by the Board of Science Unit. For music and performing arts courses offered by the Wong Bing Lai Music and Performing Arts Unit (WBLMP), examination matters will be overseen by the Board of WBLMP.

- 12.4 In the case of absence for more than two days owing to illness, a certificate from a registered medical doctor is required.
- 12.5 A student who wishes to obtain leave of absence of more than a week for non-medical reasons should obtain prior permission from the Programme Director/Head of the student's Department on the basis of a written application, stating the reasons for seeking leave of absence. If the application is approved, the Programme Director/Head of the Department should send to the Registrar a copy of the application letter together with his/her written approval.
- 12.6 In case of illness or other serious emergencies, a student who has been granted leave of absence may apply to the Programme Director(s)/Head(s) of the Academic Units concerned for permission to carry out make-up work for assignments, tests and examinations. Such applications are subject to approval by the Programme Directors/Heads of the Academic Units in consultation with the teachers concerned.
- 12.7 A student who has been absent without leave for a period exceeding thirty calendar days in the aggregate in any term will be considered as having unofficially withdrawn from studies at the University.
- 12.8 A student whose accumulated leave of absence exceeds one-third of the term should not be assessed and awarded credits for the courses enrolled in the term.
- 12.9 Notwithstanding the provisions in Regulations 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8, the Senate may in special circumstances exercise its discretion not to invoke these regulations or any part thereof in respect of a particular case.
- 12.10 A student may be required to take leave of absence if the condition of the student's health will constitute a definite hazard to the University community. Such a student should seek appropriate treatment. After the prescribed period of absence and before the student applies to resume classes, he/she should obtain a certificate signed by a registered medical doctor, stating that the student no longer constitutes a hazard to the University community.

### **13. Period of Study**

- 13.1 A student is required to register for and attend classes for at least four terms before graduation. Summer terms and any periods of gap year and suspension of studies are not included in the minimum period of study.
- 13.2 A student is required to fulfil all the requirements for graduation within the maximum study period, viz. fourteen terms (twelve terms for a student admitted to Year 2 and ten terms for a student admitted to Year 3) from his/her first registration, with the exception of the English language graduation requirement(s) (achieving a required score in IELTS for students admitted from 2017-18 except for those admitted to Year 3 in 2017-18, and taking the Password Test twice for students admitted from 2021-22) which should be fulfilled within ten terms (eight terms for a student admitted to Year 2 and six terms for a student admitted to Year 3). Summer terms are not included in the maximum period of study. Any periods of leave of absence, gap year, suspension of studies, and on approved exchange programmes are included in the maximum period of study. A student may register as a full-time or part-time student, or a combination within the maximum study period.

13.3 The approval procedures for extending the maximum period to fulfil the English language graduation requirement are specified under Regulation 22.4. A student who for non-academic reasons intends to extend his/her period of study beyond the prescribed maximum number of terms for other graduation requirements is required to obtain prior permission from the Senate.

## **14. Gap Year, Suspension of Studies and Withdrawal**

### **14.1 *Gap Year***

14.1.1 A student who wishes to engage in experiential learning such as internship, voluntary services, entrepreneurship and leadership related learning activities <sup>(Note 8)</sup>, may apply for taking a gap year to the Registrar.

14.1.2 Students who have completed the first year are eligible to take a gap year. They are allowed to take a year out once only except in extraordinary circumstances.

14.1.3 The student should obtain an application form from the Registry, complete and submit it together with the relevant supporting documents to the Registry in a term prior to the gap year.

14.1.4 The Registrar will consult the Programme Director/Head of the Department concerned to decide whether or not to approve the application.

14.1.5 The period of gap year should normally be up to two terms but not necessarily within the same academic year. If the applicant fails to return to the University to continue studies at the end of the permitted period of gap year, the student will be considered as having unofficially withdrawn from the University effective on the first day after the end of the permitted period of gap year.

14.1.6 The student should inform the Programme concerned and the Registry in case of changing the nature of work during the approved gap year.

### **14.2 *Suspension***

14.2.1 A student who, because of health or financial problems or for other valid reasons, wishes to suspend his/her studies until the end of the term for which the student is enrolled or the end of the following term, may apply to the Registrar.

14.2.2 The student should obtain an application form from the Registry, complete and submit it together with the relevant supporting documents to the Registry.

14.2.3 The Registrar will consult the Programme Director/Head of the Department concerned to decide whether or not to approve the application.

14.2.4 The period of suspension should normally not exceed two terms. If the applicant fails to return to the University to resume studies at the end of the permitted period of suspension,

---

Note 8 Non-local students must comply with the HKSAR Immigration Policy concerning their maximum allowable period of stay in Hong Kong and their engagement in experiential learning such as internship, voluntary services, entrepreneurship and leadership related learning activities, whether paid or unpaid, in Hong Kong.



the student will be considered as having unofficially withdrawn from the University effective on the first day after the end of the suspension period.

### **14.3 *Withdrawal***

- 14.3.1 A student who wishes to leave the University before graduation must seek official withdrawal from the University.
- 14.3.2 The student should complete and submit an application form obtainable from the Registry.
- 14.3.3 Approval will be granted by the Registrar only after proper clearance by relevant units.
- 14.3.4 A student who leaves the University without going through the proper procedures will be considered as having unofficially withdrawn from the University effective on the last day of the teaching term concerned.
- 14.4 An unofficially withdrawn student will not be issued any official documents of the University and will not be re-admitted.

### **15. **Reduced Study Load for the President and Vice-Presidents of the Students' Union****

- 15.1 A newly elected President or Vice-President of the Students' Union may, if he/she anticipates that his/her studies will suffer through the pressure of his/her Union duties, apply in writing to the Programme Director/Head of the Department concerned for permission to take a part-time study load for not more than two terms, while maintaining a full-time status. Such an application should normally be made within two weeks after the election results are announced.
- 15.2 The Programme and Curriculum Committee/Undergraduate Business Programmes Committee/Department Board concerned may, after considering the application, make a recommendation to the Senate thereon.
- 15.3 Granting such permission will not cause any change to the full-time status of the student nor prejudice the student's eligibility for any academic awards or financial assistance in the student's academic career.
- 15.4 No student will be granted this privilege more than once.
- 15.5 The successful applicant is required to take a minimum of 6 credits of courses in each term during his/her term of office as President or Vice-President of the Students' Union and pay all prescribed fees in full.

### **16. **Course Assessment****

- 16.1 A student is assessed for every course in which he/she has enrolled in the form of any one or any combination of the following: class work, written assignment, laboratory work, field work, research papers, projects, tests, written examinations, oral examinations and any other method(s) of academic assessment.
- 16.2 A student is required to complete all the course work and take all the prescribed tests and examinations.

- 16.3 A student who fails to attend a test or an examination without a good reason will not be given marks for that test or examination and no supplementary assessment will be given.
- 16.4 A student who is unable to sit for an examination but has medical or other compelling reasons acceptable to the Academic Unit responsible for the course concerned may apply in writing with documentary evidence to the Academic Unit concerned for a supplementary assessment. The application should be made at the earliest possible moment and no later than one week after the examination concerned was held. Further details are stipulated in Section 7 of the Regulations Governing University Examinations.
- 16.5 Reassessment of a failed course is not allowed, except under extenuating circumstances.
- 16.6 A student who has failed in a required course must retake it or take a substitute course approved in writing by the Academic Unit concerned.
- 16.7 A student who has failed an elective course may retake it or take an alternative elective in a subsequent term.
- 16.8 A student may retake a failed course only twice.
- 16.9 A student is not allowed to retake any credit bearing or non-credit bearing course which he/she has previously taken and passed.

## **17. Academic Credits**

- 17.1 The credit is a unit for measuring the amount of time in a particular course during which a student undertakes learning activities in the University, including lectures, tutorials and other forms of learning, together with the average amount of time he/she is expected to spend on his/her own.
- 17.2 In the course description, the credits assigned to a course will be indicated in parentheses. A student will be given the appropriate number of credits for a course in which he/she has enrolled and passed.
- 17.3 The grades of all courses taken and retaken, regardless of passed or failed, will be shown in academic reports and transcripts.

## **18. Grading System**

- 18.1 Letter grades are used to indicate a student's academic performance in a course.
- 18.2 Grades are awarded according to the following system:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Sub-divisions</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>
A	Excellent	A	4.00
		A-	3.67
B	Good	B+	3.33
		B	3.00
		B-	2.67
C	Fair	C+	2.33
		C	2.00
		C-	1.67
		D+	1.33
D	Pass	D	1.00
		F	0

I	Incomplete	0*
M	Merit	no grade point given*
VS	Very Satisfactory	no grade point given*
S	Satisfactory	no grade point given*
U	Unsatisfactory	no grade point given*
PASS/FAIL		no grade point given*

---

\*Not included in the calculation of grade point average.

- 18.3 Grade F indicates failure. A student who receives this grade in the first term of a year course is not normally allowed to continue with that course in the second term.
- 18.4 Grade I is a temporary grade which indicates that the course work or examination has not been completed for reasons acceptable to both the teacher and the Board of Examiners concerned. The assessment should be completed within four weeks after official release of the preliminary assessment results, and the grade I will be converted to a final grade which includes all assessment marks; otherwise, the grade I will be converted to grade F. The final grade will be used in the calculation of grade point averages.
- 18.5 A Pass or Fail grade may only be given as specified in the approved syllabus of the course concerned.

## 19. Grade Point Average (G.P.A.)

### 19.1 *Term G.P.A.*

This is a figure ranging from 0 to 4.00 (A = 4.00) used to indicate the performance of a student in the term concerned.

Term G.P.A.

$$= \frac{\text{Total weighted points for all courses taken in the term concerned}}{\text{Total number of credits* enrolled in for the term concerned}}$$

where weighted points = grade points x the number of credits of the course concerned.

### 19.2 *Year G.P.A.*

This is a figure ranging from 0 to 4.00 (A = 4.00) used to indicate the performance of a student in the academic year concerned.

Year G.P.A.

$$= \frac{\text{Total weighted points for all courses taken in the year concerned}}{\text{Total number of credits* enrolled in for the year concerned}}$$

### 19.3 *Cumulative G.P.A.*

This is a figure ranging from 0 to 4.00 (A = 4.00) used to indicate the overall performance of a student in all the terms up to date.

---

\* credits of relevant courses only

Cumulative G.P.A.

$$= \frac{\text{Total weighted points for all courses taken}}{\text{Total number of credits* enrolled in for all terms}}$$

19.4 Courses enrolled (including those in a summer term), regardless of passed or failed, will be included in the calculation of Term, Year or Cumulative G.P.A.

19.5 Courses which are exempted are not included in the calculation of Term, Year or Cumulative G.P.A.

## **20. Academic Standing**

### **20.1 *Academic Probation***

20.1.1 A student will be put on academic probation in the following term(s) if his/her Cumulative G.P.A. is below 1.67.

20.1.2 A student on academic probation cannot take more than 12 credits of courses per term except otherwise approved.

20.1.3 With the consent of his/her academic adviser and the Programme Director/Head of the Department concerned, a student on academic probation with Cumulative G.P.A. above 1.0 can take up to 15 credits of courses in the term. The student cannot take more than 15 credits of courses without exceptional approval of the Dean concerned.

20.1.4 If a student on academic probation has a Cumulative G.P.A. of 1.0 or below, approval normally will not be granted for taking more than 12 credits of courses. Exceptions will require the approval of the Programme Director/Head of the Department and the Dean concerned.

20.1.5 The performance of a student on probation will be reviewed at the end of the term when he/she has taken cumulatively 12 or more credits of courses since he/she has been put on probation. At the time of review, if the student obtains a Cumulative G.P.A. of 1.67 or above, probation will be lifted. Otherwise his/her studies will be discontinued as prescribed by Regulation 20.2.1 (c).

20.1.6 A student on academic probation will still be assessed on a term basis and subject to other conditions of discontinuation of studies prescribed by Regulation 20.2.

20.1.7 Generally the evaluation of students' examination results to determine their academic standing will not apply to the summer term with the following exceptions.

(a) The performance of a student who is on academic probation will be reviewed at the end of the summer term if he/she has taken cumulatively 12 or more credits since he/she has been put on probation. At the time of review, if the student obtains a Cumulative G.P.A. of 1.67 or above, probation will be lifted. Otherwise his/her studies will be discontinued as prescribed by Regulation 20.2.1 (c).

(b) If a student fails thrice a required course after the summer term, his/her studies will be discontinued in accordance with Regulation 20.2.1(d).

## 20.2 *Discontinuation of Studies*

20.2.1 The studies of a student will normally be discontinued if,

- (a) his/her term grade point average is below 1.00 for any two terms; or
- (b) he/she fails in more than half of the credits of all the courses he/she takes in a term for any two terms; or
- (c) he/she fails to have his/her academic probation lifted at the end of the term when he/she has taken cumulatively 12 or more credits since he/she has been put on probation, regardless of any intervening leave of absence, gap year or suspension of studies; or
- (d) he/she fails thrice a required course<sup>(Note 9)</sup> specified in his/her Major programme (for a student who changes his/her study programme or Major programme, the failure under the original study programme or Major programme is also counted); or
- (e) he/she fails to fulfil the requirement(s) for progression as stipulated in his/her Major programme, if any; or
- (f) he/she fails to fulfil all the requirements for graduation within the maximum period of study as stipulated in Regulation 13.2.

20.2.2 A student whose term grade point average is below 1.00 and/or who fails in more than half of the credits of all the courses taken in a term should have his/her study load in the following term endorsed by the academic adviser and approved by the Programme Director/Head of Department concerned.

20.2.3 A student whose studies have been discontinued on academic grounds is not allowed to be re-admitted to any undergraduate programme in the following academic year<sup>(Note 10)</sup>. The student may be admitted to any undergraduate programme afterwards considering his/her academic achievement attained subsequent to the discontinuation of studies. To ensure that there are strong reasons to justify the re-admission, all cases of re-admitting discontinued students will need to be presented to the Chairman of the Undergraduate Admissions Committee for approval.

20.2.4 Students' academic standing referred to in Regulation 20.2.1 is subject to the approval of the Senate upon the recommendation of the Board of Examiners concerned.

20.2.5 Notwithstanding Regulation 20.2.3, a student whose studies have been discontinued may appeal through the Registrar against the decision. Details are stipulated in Section 9 of the Regulations Governing University Examinations.

## 21. **Academic Honours**

21.1 Dean's List - A student who obtains 24 credits or more in an academic year (with 12 credits or more in any one term in the academic year), scores a Year G.P.A. of 3.30 - 3.69, and has

---

Note 9 A "required course" here refers to a common core course in the Core Curriculum, a required language course or a course specified in the Major programme of a student which the student is required to take and pass.

Note 10 For 2012 intake or before, a student whose studies have been discontinued on academic grounds is normally not allowed to be re-admitted to the University. Exceptions can, however, be granted on a case-by-case basis for admission to non-UGC-funded programmes.

no F (Failure), Fail, U (Unsatisfactory) or I (Incomplete) grades in any courses enrolled in for the academic year concerned will be placed on the Dean's List.

- 21.2 President's List - A student who obtains 24 credits or more in an academic year (with 12 credits or more in any one term in the academic year), scores a Year G.P.A. of 3.70 or above, and has no F (Failure), Fail, U (Unsatisfactory) or I (Incomplete) grades in any courses enrolled in for the academic year concerned will be placed on the President's List.
- 21.3 In case a student has an I (Incomplete) grade in a course which is converted into an appropriate grade, his/her Term G.P.A. and Year G.P.A. will be calculated again. The student will be awarded the Dean's List/President's List when the new Year G.P.A. meets the minimum G.P.A. required and the student fulfils other criteria.
- 21.4 President's Award - The graduate who scores the highest Cumulative G.P.A. (or the graduates who score the same highest Cumulative G.P.A.) among graduates of both UGC-funded and non-UGC-funded undergraduate degree programmes will be bestowed the President's Award(s) at the Congregation.

## **22. Graduation Requirements**

- 22.1 A student should have attended at least four terms at the University. The period on approved exchange programmes is included. Summer terms, and any periods of gap year and suspension of studies are not included.
- 22.2 A student will be evaluated for graduation at the conclusion of the term in which he/she may satisfy all the requirements of the Major programme concerned. For a student approved to take double Majors, he/she will be evaluated for graduation at the conclusion of the term in which he/she may satisfy all the requirements of both Majors. If a student is not allowed to graduate, he/she will be re-evaluated for graduation at the end of subsequent terms.
- 22.3 A student should have completed 120 or more credits of courses and fulfilled all other graduation requirements as stipulated in the curriculum of his/her Major programme. A student should also fulfil the requirements of the Integrated Learning Programme and Civic Engagement/Service-Learning<sup>(Note 11)</sup>. A student should pass the Information Technology Fluency Test<sup>(Note 12)</sup>. The University reserves the right to make amendments to academic programmes from time to time as approved by the Senate. These should be fulfilled within the maximum study period as prescribed in Regulation 13.2.

---

Note 11 Students admitted in 2015-16 or before, students admitted to Year 2 in 2016-17 and students admitted to Year 3 in 2016-17 and 2017-18 are required to fulfil the Civic Engagement requirement. All first year intakes from 2016-17 onwards, students admitted to Year 2 from 2017-18 onwards and students admitted to Year 3 from 2018-19 onwards are required to fulfil the Service-Learning graduation requirement.

Note 12 Successful completion of BUS1110 Introduction to Information Literacy course is regarded as fulfilled the requirement for passing the Information Technology Fluency Test.

- 22.4 A student admitted in the 2017-18 academic year or after (except for those admitted to Year 3 in 2017-18) shall meet the English language graduation requirement by attaining a minimum overall band score in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) applicable to his/her Major<sup>(Note 13)</sup> before he/she can graduate. Additionally, a student admitted from the 2021-22 academic year or after shall take the Password Test twice according to the stipulated timeframe<sup>(Note 14)</sup> before he/she can graduate. These shall be fulfilled within ten terms (eight terms for a student admitted to Year 2 and six terms for a student admitted to Year 3). Nevertheless, exceptional approval for fulfilling the requirement(s) in a longer period can be granted by the Dean concerned on a case-by-case basis under exceptional circumstances and upon recommendation by the Programme Director/Head of Department concerned. A written application has to be submitted to the Programme Director/Head of Department concerned three months before the end of the aforementioned period.
- 22.5 A student should have obtained a Cumulative G.P.A. of at least 1.67.
- 22.6 A student who has fulfilled the requirements of two Major programmes for which he/she has registered will graduate with double Majors.
- 22.7 A student who has fulfilled the requirements of a Minor programme for which he/she has registered will graduate with the Minor.
- 22.8 A student is required to graduate as soon as he/she satisfies all the conditions for graduation. A student approved to take double Majors shall graduate as soon as he/she satisfies all the conditions for graduation for both Majors. In case the student cannot satisfy the conditions for attaining the first Major by the expiry of the maximum study period, his/her studies will be discontinued as stipulated in Regulation 20.2.1(f). In case the student cannot satisfy the conditions for attaining the second Major by the expiry of the maximum study period, he/she shall graduate from the first Major provided that he/she satisfies all the conditions for graduation for the first Major. He/she may be allowed to take more credits than he/she needs to graduate, but only in the term he/she becomes eligible for the award concerned.
- 22.9 In case a student approved to take double Majors wishes to graduate as soon as he/she satisfies all the conditions for graduation from the first Major without attaining the second Major, he/she should apply for approval from the Programme Director/Head of Department of the second Major to withdraw from the second Major. The student approved to withdraw from the second Major will be evaluated for graduation at the end of the term in which he/she may satisfy all the requirements of the first Major.

---

Note 13 An overall band score of 6.5 in IELTS (Academic) was set as the university-wide English language minimum graduation requirement while an overall band score of 7.0 in IELTS (Academic) was set as the requirement for English and Translation Majors and an overall band score of 6.0 in IELTS (Academic) was exceptionally approved for the Chinese Major and the Interdisciplinary Major in Chinese Literature, History and Philosophy. Students may meet the requirement by attaining a required score in IELTS or an equivalent qualification anytime before graduation but it is strongly recommended that students take IELTS after completion of the English Language Enhancement (ELE) courses. Students whose IELTS score is below the required threshold may retake IELTS. There is no limit on the number of retakes. More details of the graduation requirement are stipulated in the Registry webpage on English Language Requirements.

Note 14 Details on taking the Password test for all undergraduate students are stipulated in the Registry webpage on English Language Requirements.

22.10 A student may graduate upon completion of all requirements at the end of any term in an academic year.

22.11A student's eligibility for graduation is subject to Senate approval.

### 23. Degree Classification

23.1 An honours degree programme student who has fulfilled the requirements for graduation will be awarded a bachelor's degree with one of the classifications set out in Regulation 23.2. These are given according to the students' Cumulative G.P.A. on all courses.

23.2 There is a minimum Cumulative G.P.A. for each class below which a student will not be given the classification concerned, as follows:

Honours Degree Classification	Minimum Cumulative G.P.A.
(1) First Class Honours	3.50
(2) Upper Second Class Honours	3.00
(3) Lower Second Class Honours	2.50
(4) Third Class Honours	2.00
(5) Pass	1.67

The attainment of the minimum Cumulative G.P.A. does not mean automatic conversion to the corresponding class of honours.

### 24. Special Cases

Where a student is unable, through illness or other extenuating circumstances, to complete some or all of the course requirements and/or examinations in the final term, or does not have the likelihood of completing the degree requirements, the Board of Examiners may make an overall judgment based on his/her performance in the courses completed and recommend the student for a degree with no classification. The acceptance of such an award by a student will render him/her ineligible to present himself/herself for any subsequent consideration for the same bachelor's degree.

### 25. Academic Dress for Graduates

#### 25.1 *Gown*

A black robe of a simple traditional shape.

#### 25.2 *Hood*

A black hood of 90 cm long with red and grey silk lining throughout, and with an edge lining of the discipline colour as follows:

Degree	Colour
Bachelor of Arts (BA)	Yellow
Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)	Blue
Bachelor of Liberal Arts (BLA)	Purple
Bachelor of Science (BSc)	Red
Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSocSc)	Green



### 25.3 *Cap*

A black cap of mortar-board pattern with a black tassel.

## 26. **Testimonials, Transcripts and Academic Awards**

### 26.1 *Testimonials*

26.1.1 A student who wishes to have a letter certifying his/her student status or attendance records may apply to the Registry for such a testimonial.

26.1.2 A student who wishes to have a personal recommendation or reference letter should approach a teacher who knows him/her well.

### 26.2 *Transcripts*

26.2.1 A student who wishes to apply for transfer or admission to another educational institution or for employment may apply to the Registry for an official transcript.

26.2.2 An official transcript shows the relevant particulars of a student, title of study programme or Major programme(s)<sup>(Note 15)</sup>, title(s) of Minor programme(s), title(s) of Stream(s)/Discipline Major(s), title of Concentration, all courses taken, grades obtained, grade point averages, academic scholarships, academic awards, academic honours, attainment or non-attainment of the English language graduation requirement, and disciplinary actions taken, if any and as appropriate.

26.2.3 An official transcript will be sent directly by the Registry to the institution or prospective employer upon the student's request and payment of the prescribed fees and postage.

26.2.4 An official transcript is not issued to a student as a personal copy or to any private individual.

26.2.5 A student who has unofficially withdrawn from the University or has unpaid accounts or obligations due to the University will not be issued any transcript or testimonial.

### 26.3 *Academic Awards*

26.3.1 By virtue of the Lingnan University Ordinance, Lingnan University is empowered to confer Degrees upon the approval of the University Senate on students who have fulfilled the requirements of an approved programme of studies.

26.3.2 Degrees are conferred at the annual Congregation or by the President as Chairman of the Senate before the annual Congregation.

26.3.3 The certification of an academic award is in both Chinese and English and shows the full name of the recipient, the title of the award with the classification where appropriate, and

---

Note 15 For a student who graduates with double Majors, the degree of the first Major will be shown, e.g. Bachelor of Arts in Chinese, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Data Science or Bachelor of Social Sciences, while the second Major will be shown without a degree title, e.g. Chinese, Business Administration or Social Sciences, to denote that it is not a second degree.

the title of the Major programme concerned<sup>(Note 16)</sup>. The title of the Minor programme/Stream/Discipline Major, if any, is not shown.

26.3.4 The certification of award bears the signatures of the Chairman of the Council, the President and the Registrar of the University, and the University seal.

26.3.5 The University may withhold the conferment of an academic award to a student who has unpaid accounts or unreturned materials on loan due to the University, or who has not met any other obligations due to the University.

## 27. Course Coding System

27.1 Each course is identified by a unique course code which is composed of a letter code and a number code. The course code normally indicates the area of study, the intellectual demand placed on students and the recommended sequence of study. A sub-code in the form of a small letter may be added to the number code where necessary to denote the topic the course covers.

27.2 Notwithstanding the above, a course in the Core Curriculum will be assigned a common core course code or a cluster course code.

### 27.3 Letter Code

27.3.1 This is the first part of the course code consisting of three characters which normally represents the study area of the course concerned or their status as Core Curriculum courses. The following letter codes are used:

Letter Code	Subject Area/Common Core Course
ACT	Accounting
ADA	Animation and Digital Arts
ARS	Arts <sup>(Note 17)</sup>
BUS	General Business
CCC	Common Core
CDS	Computing and Decision Sciences
CHI	Chinese
CLA	Cluster Course - Creativity and Innovation
CLB	Cluster Course - Humanities and the Arts
CLC	Cluster Course - Management and Society
CLD	Cluster Course - Science, Technology, Mathematics and Society
CLE	Cluster Course - Values, Cultures and Societies
CRE	Creativity
CUS	Cultural Studies
ECO	Economics
ENG	English
FIN	Finance
FRE	French
FVA	Film and Visual Arts
GDS	Global Development and Sustainability
GER	German
GLA	Global Liberal Arts

Note 16 For a student who graduates with double Majors, only the degree of the first Major will be shown.

Note 17 The “ARS” code was specially approved for interdisciplinary courses in the Faculty of Arts such as the Directed Research Project for an interdisciplinary Major and a student-designed Major.

GOV	Government and International Affairs
HRM	Human Resource Management
HSM	Health and Social Services Management
HST	History
INL	Integrated Learning
JAP	Japanese
KOR	Korean
LCC	Language and Communication - Chinese
LCE	Language and Communication – English
LUE	Lingnan University English
MGT	Management
MKT	Marketing
MPA	Music and Performance Arts
MUS	Music
PED	Physical Education
PHI	Philosophy
PMS	Public Management and Smart Governance
POL	Political Science
PSY	Psychology
RIM	Risk and Insurance Management
RUS	Russian
SCI	Sciences
SLP	Service Learning Programme
SOC	Sociology
SPA	Spanish
SSC	Social Sciences
TRA	Translation
VIS	Visual Studies

---

27.3.2 Subject to the approval of the Senate, a course code may consist of two three-character letter codes to indicate the teaching department(s) and/or the programme(s) of the course.

#### 27.4 *Number Code*

This is the second part of the course code which consists of four digits.

27.4.1 Except for Core Curriculum courses, the first digit of the number code indicates the year in which the course is intended, viz. codes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are respectively used for courses intended to be taken in Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively, as decided by the course offering units. This aims to give some guidance to students only, and is not meant to restrict students to taking the courses according to the codes.

27.4.2 The first digit of the number code for the common core courses in the Core Curriculum is “8” while that for cluster courses in the Core Curriculum is “9”.

27.4.3 The second to fourth digits are serial numbers assigned to the course.

Revised in October 2023