

Higher Education Grade Codes Fact Sheet



Current TAFE Queensland grade codes (post 22 August 2018)

The following SMS final grade (result) codes are currently in use by TAFE Queensland Higher Education courses. Refer to the Higher Education Grading Schedule at the end of document for the percentages required for specific Higher Education courses to meet the grade codes. The following descriptions provide examples of the conditions in which the relevant grade is awarded.

Grade Code	Final Grade	Description	Grade Point	GPA Calc
HD	High Distinction	Outstanding performance indicating complete and comprehensive understanding of the unit content; genuine command of relevant skills; demonstration of an extremely high level of interpretative and analytical ability and intellectual initiative; and achievement of all learning outcomes of the unit.	7	Yes
D	Distinction	Excellent performance indicating a very high level of understanding of the unit content; development of relevant skills to a very high level; appreciation of key issues; addresses all the assessment criteria, with several to a high standard; clearly and logically organised with good presentation.	6	Yes
C	Credit	Good performance indicating a competent level of understanding of unit content; development of relevant skills to a level going beyond mere replication of content and knowledge; appreciation of most of the main issues; addresses most of the assessment criteria reasonably well. Competent organisation and presentation.	5	Yes
P	Pass	Satisfies all of the basic learning requirements of the unit, such as knowledge of fundamental concepts and performance of basic skills; demonstrates satisfactory, adequate, competent, or capable achievement.	4	Yes
MF	Marginal Fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than satisfactory performance indicating a low level of understanding of the unit content; failure to demonstrate satisfactory levels of achievement across some or all learning outcomes of the unit of study. Where a Supplementary Assessment has been granted but is not undertaken, or where it is taken but no change to grade is warranted. 	3	Yes
F	Fail	Unsatisfactory performance indicating an inadequate understanding of the basic subject matter; failure to develop relevant skills; insufficient evidence of interpretive and analytical ability; and failure to achieve major and minor learning outcomes of the unit. All of the mandatory assessment Items are incomplete.	2	Yes
LF	Low Fail	Unsatisfactory performance indicating an inadequate understanding of the basic subject matter; failure to develop relevant skills; insufficient evidence of interpretive and analytical ability; and failure to achieve major and minor learning outcomes of the unit.	1	Yes
FH	Fail – Academic Penalty	Used to indicate that a fail grade has been applied to a unit of study as a result of a substantiated finding of Academic Misconduct.	0	Yes
TH	Credit transfer	Used to indicate that credit has been given for a unit of study, based on successful completion of equivalent study. Credit for units should	N/A	No

Grade Code	Final Grade	Description	Grade Point	GPA Calc
		only be granted for units completed within the past five (5) years, however, should professional practice and personal development have been undertaken within the field, then this could be extended to ten (10) years.		
RS	Recognition of prior learning (Granted)	A final grade of RS will be awarded when a student has successfully completed Recognition of Prior Learning for a unit of study.	N/A	No
RU	Recognition of prior learning (Not Granted)	A final grade of RU will be awarded when a student has not been successful in the Recognition of Prior Learning for a unit of study.	N/A	No
SH	Satisfactory	A final grade of SH will be awarded when a student demonstrates competency/industry standard for established learning outcomes and professional competencies (where applicable) for unit of study. For example, professional practice or a clinical project. Usually these requirements are not reportable in TCSI.	N/A	No
UH	Unsatisfactory	<p>A final grade of UH will be awarded when a student fails to demonstrate competency /industry standard for established learning outcomes and professional competencies (where applicable) for a unit of study.</p> <p>For example, professional practice or a clinical project (WBL unit in HED001)</p> <p>This grade is applied to the WBL unit in the HED001 Course of Study when the student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has withdrawn from the Unit after the last date to withdraw from the unit without academic penalty; and • has attempted to complete the WBL unit of study; OR • has not returned to study, has had no current enrolment in the past 6 months or more, and has attempted to complete the WBL unit and TAFE Queensland is withdrawing the student from the WBL unit of study. <p>(Note: no GPA academic penalty applies)</p>	N/A	No

WITHDRAWN GRADES				
Grade Code	Final Grade	Description	Grade Point	GPA Calc.
/Planned	Early Withdrawn	Where a student withdraws from a unit of study PRIOR to the published census date, they will be noted as “Early Withdrawn”. There will be no grade allocated to the student’s academic transcript, ROR or AHEGS. Early withdrawn is an administration status in the SMS.	N/A	No
WH	Withdrawn	<p>This grade is applied where a student withdraws /drops a unit of study <u>after</u> the census date and before the last date to withdraw without academic penalty.</p> <p>Example: This grade is applied to the WBL unit in the HED001 Course of Study when the student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has withdrawn from the Unit after the last date to withdraw from the unit; and • did not attempt to complete the WBL unit of study; OR • has not returned to study, has had no current enrolment in the past 6 months or more, and has not attempted to complete the WBL unit and TAFE Queensland is withdrawing the student from the WBL unit of study. 	N/A	No
LH	Late Withdrawal	<p>This grade is applied when a student has formally withdrawn from a unit of study after the census date and after the last date to withdraw without academic penalty. The Academic Penalty date is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday of week 10 for a standard semester or • Friday of the week that equates to 70% of delivered teaching (for a Unit/s of Study of a non-standard semester duration). <p>This grade code is NOT to be applied to competency based units of study such as the WBL unit of study in HED001. Refer to WH and UH grade codes only.</p>	1	Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE GRADES – INTERIM GRADES				
Grade Code	Final Grade	Description	Grade Point	GPA Calc.
SA	Supplementary Assessment*	<p>Used to indicate when all assessment in a unit of study has been completed but a pass has not resulted, and some form of additional assessment has been granted.</p> <p>Where an approved supplementary assessment is granted and accepted but not undertaken by the student, the student will be awarded a Fail Grade, “F” for the unit of study.</p> <p>Where a supplementary assessment is granted and the student passes the assessment, the student will be awarded a “P” – Pass for the unit of study. Otherwise, the original grade stands.</p>	No more than 4	Yes
DA	Deferred Assessment	<p>Used to create records for assessment purposes in officially designated assessment periods.</p> <p>Where an approved Deferred Assessment is granted but not undertaken by the student, the student will be awarded a Fail Grade, “F” for the unit of study.</p>	N/A	No
AI	Assessment Incomplete (Admin Grade)	<p>Used to indicate that not all assessment tasks have been assessed and that a final grade cannot yet be recorded. <i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are compassionate or compelling circumstances associated with the student’s assessment status. Personal circumstances based on written evidence by a counsellor, or medical practitioner; • Work-related circumstance based on written evidence by their employer. • Delays with the completion of assessment caused by external factors <p>“AI” also applies to units which span a period of more than one semester such as workplace learning / professional practice / clinical placements.</p> <p>If a student does not complete/submit the assessment within the approved time period, then the AI will revert to the relevant grade outlined herein.</p>	N/A	No

HIGHER EDUCATION GRADING SCHEDULE – Overall Unit of Study percentage (%)			
Grades	Code	Standard Units of Study	Clinical* Units of Study
High Distinction	7	85-100%	90-100%
Distinction	6	75-84%	80-89%
Credit	5	65-74%	70-79%
Pass	4	50-64%	60-69%
Marginal Fail	3	35-49%	50-59%
Fail	2	21-34%	21-49%
Low Fail	1	0-20%	0-20%

**and similar high risk Units of Study as approved.*

KEY TO GRADES AND CODES – GRADING SCHEME

Code	Grade	GPA
HD	High Distinction	7
D	Distinction	6
C	Credit Pass	5
P	Pass	4
MF	Marginal fail	3
F	Fail	2
LF	Low Fail	1
LH	Withdrawn fail	1
FH	Fail – Academic penalty	0
WH	Withdrawn	Not graded
SH	Satisfactory	Not graded
UH	Unsatisfactory	Not graded
TH	Credit transfer granted	Not graded
RS	Recognition of Prior Learning (Granted)	Not graded
RU	Recognition of Prior Learning (Not Granted)	Not graded

This explanation is correct as at 04.07.2023 and further details of assessment notations are available [here](#)

*Results for any external status credited cannot be provided by TAFE Queensland.