

# **Kerala University of Health Sciences Policy on Academic Credit System**

## **Introduction:**

Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS) conducts courses which are recognised by the regulatory Councils of various Health Streams. The pattern of these courses is decided by the respective apex Councils. KUHS also conducts courses designed in-house by the University. The pattern of these courses is decided by the University. KUHS is planning to introduce multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary courses in collaboration with other Universities. Credit Based Semester System and Choice Based Semester System are being followed by most of the Universities outside the Health Stream.

KUHS is piloting this by introducing the system of Academic Credits in the courses designed and implemented by the University, in-house.

## **Preamble**

Diversity in the systems of higher education, have made the Universities to follow multiple approaches in the designing curriculum, conduct of examinations, evaluation, and grading system. Academic performance of the students is now assessed using the conventional system of marks secured in the examinations or grades or both. The letter grades and the conversion factors used to convert marks to letter grades vary widely across institutions.

Academic Credit System is a systematic way of describing and qualifying an educational programme by attaching credits to its components. A course credit is a basic measure of student workload and is a standard method adopted by many Universities for specifying the number of hours of learning effort that a student is expected to put in while completing a course. Relative weightages are fixed for the different learning modes such as lectures, lab work, assignments, etc.

The academic requirements are considered satisfactory when the student has completed the required number and type of courses and has accumulated the required

number of credits required for graduation. A credit based academic architecture makes it easy for a programme to be updated and remain current.

The credit system allows designing individual courses in terms of their required credit load. This in turn gives a clear picture of the learning effort that a student will have to put into each course as well as the overall programme.

Health Science education needs to restructure itself to stand up in a competitive dynamic society and to be properly upgraded to offer global opportunities to the students. The educational programme should be learner friendly and learner centric.

From this point of view Kerala University of Health Sciences is introducing Academic Credit System in its course structure wherever feasible.

**1. Authority**

The Kerala University of Health Sciences, Thrissur, in exercise of the powers conferred by Chapter II-5(ii) of KUHS Act 2010 (Act 4 of 2011), makes the following Policy, namely;

**2. Short title, Application and Commencement:**

This Policy, as of now, shall be called the “Kerala University of Health Sciences, Thrissur: Policy on Academic Credit System-2023.” These shall come into force from the date of final approval after due process. Kerala University of Health Sciences, Thrissur is adopting the Academic Credit System as an integral part of its educational content creation and evaluation systems. The whole process shall be governed by the Academic Council.

**3. Applicability of Academic Credit System:**

To start with, this policy can be applied to undergraduate and postgraduate level Degree, Diploma, and certificate programmes under KUHS, which are not governed by the regulations of the Apex Councils.

4. **Regulations:** Regulations of the programmes shall be formed based on this policy, and the existing regulations of the present programmes shall be modified accordingly.

5. **Definitions:**

a. **Semester:** Each semester will consist of 26 weeks. This will include 20 weeks of academic work, equivalent to a minimum of 110 actual teaching days, 2 weeks exam preparatory time, 2 weeks for exams and 2 weeks as vacation. In case of unforeseen exigencies, one week each may be utilised from the time allotted for vacation and the exam preparatory time (up to a maximum of 2 weeks in total) to avoid course lag.

b. **Academic Year:** Two consecutive semesters constitute one academic year.

c. **Programme:** means the entire course of study and examinations (traditionally referred to as a 'Course'. The programmes should be Competency based and should specify the Learning Outcomes.

d. **'Duration of programme'** means the time required for the conduct of the programme.

e. **Course** means a segment of subject matter to be covered in a semester (traditionally referred to as paper). The courses should define learning objectives and learning outcomes. A course may be designed to comprise one or more of the following: lectures / tutorials/ laboratory work / field work / outreach activities / project work/ vocational training / viva / seminars / term papers /assignments / presentations/ self-study etc. All courses need not carry the same credit.

f. **Credit:** It is the unit by which the course work is measured. It determines the number of hours of instructions required per week. One credit is equivalent to

one hour of teaching (lecture or tutorial) or two hours of practical work per week.

- g. **Credit Course:** A course which is taught for at least one semester.
- h. **Letter Grade:** It is an index of the performance of students in a said course. Grades are denoted by letters O, A+, A, B+, B, C, F and AB.
- i. **Grade Point:** This is the numerical weight allotted to each letter grade on a 10-point scale.
- j. **Credit Point:** This is the product of grade point and number of credits for a course.
- k. **Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA):**  
It is a measure of performance of work done in a semester. It is the ratio of total credit points secured by a student in various courses registered in a semester and the total course credits taken during that semester. It shall be expressed up to two decimal places.
- l. **Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA):**  
It is a measure of overall cumulative performance of a student over all semesters. The CGPA is the ratio of total credit points secured by a student in various courses in all semesters and the sum of the total credits of all courses in all the semesters. It is expressed up to two decimal places.
- m. **Credit Based Semester System (CBSS):**  
Under the CBSS, the requirement for awarding a Degree or Diploma or certificate is prescribed in terms of the number of credits to be completed by the students.

n. **Choice Based Credit System (CBCS):**

The CBCS provides a choice for students to select from the prescribed courses (core, elective or minor or soft skill courses).

o. **Credit load:**

Credit Load of is the total number of credits of all the courses registered (attempted) by a student during that semester.

The *maximum credit load for a semester including regular courses and repeat courses* shall not exceed 27. The *maximum credit load including regular courses, repeat courses and re-examination courses shall be 32.*

Project work / work experience / practical field training / physical education are not included in the calculation of the credit load.

p. **Repeat course:**

This is used to refer to a course repeated by a student for want of attendance or secured zero grade in that course when registered earlier.

q. **Re-examination course:**

Re-examination course is a course registered by a student who had satisfactory attendance and secured a grade F (Failed). As an option to improve the grade secured, students who secured grade point up to 6 when registered earlier can also register for re-examination courses. A student need not attend classes for a re-examination course. However, the student shall appear for all the stipulated examinations in that semester. Students having grade point of zero will not be allowed for re-examination courses.

## 6. Types of courses

- a. **Core Courses** are to be compulsorily studied by a student as a core requirement to complete the requirement of a programme in a said discipline of study to receive the Degree.

- b. **Elective courses** shall be chosen from a pool of papers; the papers may be discipline centric or those which add generic proficiency to the students. They are supportive to the discipline of study / expand the scope of the subject / enable an exposure to some other discipline/domain or enhance skill / proficiency.
  - c. **Foundation Course** means courses based upon the content that leads to knowledge enhancement and are mandatory for all disciplines.
  - d. **'Ability enhancement course'** (AEC) is a compulsory course which is mandatory for all programmes, but its grade will not be counted for the computation of SGPA or CGPA. This course is to enhance the ability and skill in the concerned core area.
  - e. **'Professional competency course'** (PCC) is a compulsory course which is mandatory for all programmes, but its grade will not be counted for the computation of SGPA or CGPA. This course is to get professional competency and exposure in the concerned core area.
  - f. **'Audited course'** is a course which the student can register without earning credits (zero credit course). Credit courses can be registered as zero-credit courses if a student desires so.
7. **Course description:** shall include Course Code, Course Title, Credits assigned for theory and practical components and Total Credits.
- a. **Course Code** shall be in the format with 3 alphabets denoting the subject followed by a hyphen and 4 digits starting from 1000
  - b. **Course Title** shall be unique and self-explanatory.
  - c. **Credits Assigned** shall include credits for theory and practical components.  
e.g., 3 + 2 means 3 credits for theory and 2 for practical

*Illustration:*

| <b>Course Code</b> | <b>Course Title</b>  | <b>Credits Assigned</b> | <b>Total Credits</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| BIO-1001           | Biochemistry 1       | 3 + 2                   | 5                    |
| PHY-1002           | Physiology 2         | 2 + 2                   | 4                    |
| CMM-1001           | Community Medicine 1 | 3 + 0                   | 3                    |

#### 8. Academic Programme for Credit Based Semester System

Each academic programme shall mandatorily consist of Core Courses, Elective Courses and Foundation Courses. Ability Enhancement Courses & Professional Competency Courses and Audited Courses may form part of the Programme as per Regulations of specific programmes

#### 9. Examination and Assessment

End semester examinations shall be conducted by the University. There shall be no additional / SAY examinations. In assessing the performance of the students in examinations, the following 10-point grading system shall be used:

| <b>Percentage of marks obtained</b> | <b>Letter Grade</b> | <b>Performance</b> | <b>Grade Point</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 95.00 - 100                         | O                   | (Outstanding)      | 10                 |
| 90.00 - 94.99                       | A+                  | (Excellent)        | 9                  |
| 80.00 - 89.99                       | A                   | (Very Good)        | 8                  |
| 70.00 - 79.99                       | B+                  | (Good)             | 7                  |
| 60.00 - 69.99                       | B                   | (Fair)             | 6                  |
| 50.00 - 59.99                       | C                   | (Average)          | 5                  |
| Below 50.00                         | F                   | (Fail)             | 0                  |
| Absent                              | AB                  | (Absent)           | 0                  |

A student obtaining Grade F or AB shall be considered failed and will be required to reappear in the examination after registering as a re-examination course.

## 10. Computation of SGPA and CGPA

- a. The SGPA is the ratio of sum of the product of the number of credits with the grade points scored by a student in all the courses taken by a student and the sum of the number of credits of all the courses undergone by a student, i.e.,

**SGPA** ( $S_i$ ) =  $\sum (C_i \times G_i) / \sum C_i$  where  $C_i$  is the number of credits of the course and  $G_i$  is the grade point scored by the student in the course.

- b. The CGPA is also calculated in the same manner considering all the courses undergone by a student over all the semesters of a programme, i.e.,

**CGPA** =  $\sum (C_i \times S_i) / \sum C_i$  where  $S_i$  is the SGPA of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  semester and  $C_i$  is the total number of credits in that semester.

- c. The SGPA and CGPA shall be rounded off to 2 decimal points and reported in the transcripts.

11. **Academic Progression:** To be eligible to progress from one academic year to the next, a student shall have successfully completed all the Core Courses in the academic year. Further requirements shall be as per Regulations of the respective Programmes.

## 12. Transcript or Grade Card or Certificate:

A grade certificate shall be issued to all the registered students after every semester based on the grades earned. The grade certificate will display the course details (code, title, number of credits, grade secured) along with SGPA of that semester and CGPA earned till that semester.

Separate Grade Card and transcript certificates shall be issued for the courses, which are not counted for the computation of SGPA/CGPA.

## 13. Removal of Difficulty:

Kerala University of Health Sciences reserves the right to remove difficulties in the course of implementation of the policy as per norms of the University.

Appendix - I  
Illustration of Computation of SGPA and CGPA

| Semester 1 |                            |            |   |              |                 |                      |
|------------|----------------------------|------------|---|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Sl. No     | Course number              | Credit (C) | Marks obtained (%)                              | Letter Grade | Grade Point (G) | Credit point (C x G) |
| 1          | A-101                      | 3          | 81  | A            | 8               | 24                   |
| 2          | B-101                      | 4          | 72  | B+           | 7               | 28                   |
| 3          | C-101                      | 3          | 92  | A+           | 9               | 27                   |
| 4          | D-101                      | 3          | 53  | C            | 5               | 15                   |
|            | <b>Total</b>               | <b>13</b>  |   |              |                 | <b>94</b>            |
|            | <b>SGPA for semester 1</b> |            | = (CG1 + CG2 + CG3 + CG4) / (C1 + C2 + C3 + C4) |              |                 |                      |
|            |                            |            | = 94 / 13                                       |              | <b>7.23</b>     |                      |

| Semester 2 |                            |            |   |              |                 |                      |
|------------|----------------------------|------------|---|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Sl. No     | Course number              | Credit (C) | Marks obtained (%)                              | Letter Grade | Grade Point (G) | Credit Point (C x G) |
| 1          | E-201                      | 4          | 72  | B+           | 7               | 28                   |
| 2          | F-201                      | 4          | 78  | B+           | 7               | 28                   |
| 3          | G-201                      | 3          | 51  | C            | 5               | 15                   |
| 4          | H-201                      | 3          | 88  | A            | 8               | 15                   |
|            | <b>Total</b>               | <b>14</b>  |   |              |                 | <b>86</b>            |
|            | <b>SGPA for semester 2</b> |            | = (CG1 + CG2 + CG3 + CG4) / (C1 + C2 + C3 + C4) |              |                 |                      |
|            |                            |            | = 86 / 13                                       |              | <b>6.14</b>     |                      |

| Semester 3 |                            |            |   |              |                 |                      |
|------------|----------------------------|------------|---|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Sl. No     | Course number              | Credit (C) | Marks obtained (%)                              | Letter Grade | Grade Point (G) | Credit Point (C x G) |
| 1          | A-102                      | 4          | 93  | A+           | 9               | 36                   |
| 2          | B-102                      | 4          | 78  | B+           | 7               | 28                   |
| 3          | C-102                      | 3          | 91  | A+           | 9               | 27                   |
| 4          | D-102                      | 2          | 76  | B+           | 7               | 14                   |
|            | <b>Total</b>               | <b>13</b>  |   |              |                 | <b>105</b>           |
|            | <b>SGPA for semester 3</b> |            | = (CG1 + CG2 + CG3 + CG4) / (C1 + C2 + C3 + C4) |              |                 |                      |
|            |                            |            | = 105 / 13                                      |              | <b>8.08</b>     |                      |

| Semester 4 |                            |            |   |              |                 |                      |
|------------|----------------------------|------------|---|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Sl. No     | Course number              | Credit (C) | Marks obtained (%)                              | Letter Grade | Grade Point (G) | Credit Point (C x G) |
| 1          | E-202                      | 3          | 85  | A            | 8               | 24                   |
| 2          | F-202                      | 3          | 74  | B+           | 7               | 21                   |
| 3          | G-202                      | 4          | 53  | C            | 5               | 20                   |
| 4          | H-202                      | 3          | 52  | C            | 5               | 15                   |
|            | <b>Total</b>               | <b>13</b>  |   |              |                 | <b>80</b>            |
|            | <b>SGPA for semester 4</b> |            | = (CG1 + CG2 + CG3 + CG4) / (C1 + C2 + C3 + C4) |              |                 |                      |
|            |                            |            | = 80 / 13                                       |              | <b>6.15</b>     |                      |

| Calculation of CGPA for the period of study |   |            |            |            |             |
|---|---|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
|   | Semester 1                                      | Semester 2 | Semester 3 | Semester 4 | Total       |
| Credit                                      | 13  | 14         | 13         | 13         | <b>53</b>   |
| SGPA  | 7.23  | 6.14       | 8.08       | 6.15       |             |
| Credit x SGPA                               | <b>94</b>                                       | <b>86</b>  | <b>105</b> | <b>80</b>  | <b>365</b>  |
| <b>CGPA</b>                                 | = <u>Total (Credit x SGPA) of all Semesters</u> |            |            | = 365/53   | <b>6.89</b> |
|   | Total Credits of the course                     |            |            |            |             |