



WEST BENGAL STATE COUNCIL OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(A Statutory Body under West Bengal Act XXI of 1995)

"Kolkata Karigori Bhavan", 2nd Floor, 110 S.N.Banerjee Road, Kolkata – 700 013

Phone: (033) 2227-7070; 2227-7592

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IMPORTANT CIRCULAR

The Council moots the idea of introducing the G.P.A. System in polytechnic education of the state. An explanatory write-up is hereby placed for perusal of all concerned.

Questions, comments, suggestions and the like may be addressed to The Controller of Examinations, West Bengal State Council of Technical Education.

Sandip Kundu

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Controller of Examinations

W.B.S.C.T.E.

The G.P.A. System

The G.P.A. System of students evaluation, in lieu of outright marks and aggregate, was introduced in the U.S. universities in the 1960s. In our country, the Central Govt. institutes mainly adopted the system in the 2nd half of the '70s. The G.P.A. System is a time-tested and scientific method of judging the performance of a student vis-à-vis those of other students. It also takes into account the relative importance of a subject as well as the stiffness of the question set on one subject which results in not so high score in that subject or the vice versa. It is now widely prevalent in almost all institutions of higher learning across the globe.

To understand the G.P.A. System quickly, one has to keep in mind the following:

- i) The duration of all classes will be one hour only and the no of such classes that is allotted to one subject (including practical classes) in the curriculum for one semester is known as the credit hours of that subject.
- ii) The G.P.A. System may be 10-point system or 5-point system. Here we explain the 5-point system for convenience sake. The result of one semester is presented in the Grade Point Average secured by a student and his overall result after 6 semesters will be termed Overall Grade Point Average (O.G.P.A.).
- iii) In the 5-point system the grades along with respective points are normally decided in the following manner which is descending in nature:

Grade	Point
E	5
A	4
B	3
C	2
D	1
F (Fail)	0

Table - 1

- iv) The Grades are awarded depending upon the absolute marks secured by a student in a subject. However, the Grades represent certain range of marks and all students with marks which fall within a particular range will be awarded the same Grade. Fixing of such ranges of marks may vary from subject to subject depending upon the relative toughness of a subject. However, for the sake of convenience and easy understanding of students we may take up, to start with, one set of ranges for all subjects of all semesters. Such a range of marks with corresponding Grades are shown below (pass marks in any subject has been taken to be 40):

Range	Grade
81-100	E
71-80	A
61-70	B
51-60	C
40-50	D
< 40 (Fail)	F

Table - 2

- v) The G.P.A. of a student at the end of the semester is calculated by dividing the total credit points he has secured in all subjects divided by the total credit hours of that semester where credit points mean the figure arrived at by multiplying the Grade Point secured by a student in a subject with the credit hours of that subject.

Suppose in a subject X, a student has secured 66 marks. As per Table-2 above, he has secured the Grade 'B' in that subject. From Table-1, we find Grade-B means '3' Grade Points. Now, if the subject X had weekly 5 hours of class (i.e. 5 classes of 1 hr each including practical), the credit hours of X is 5. So, the credit points of this student who has secured B-Grade (i.e. 3 Grade Points) in the subject 'X' with 5 credit hours will come to $5 \times 3 = 15$. This, mathematically, means

$$\text{Credit Points} = \text{Grade Points Secured} \times \text{Credit Hours}$$

Now, we can calculate the G.P.A. of a student after a semester very easily. If there are 6 subjects with different credit hours in a semester, depending upon the absolute marks secured and thus the grade (from which the Grade Point is automatically found), one can easily calculate the total credit points secured by a student taking all 6 subjects. The following example will illustrate the case taking hypothetical performance of a student in any one semester:

Subject	Credit Hours	Marks Secured	Grade	Grade Point	Credit Points 2×5
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	6	78	A	4	24
2	4	53	C	2	8
3	5	46	D	1	5
4	4	76	A	4	16
5	5	62	B	3	15
6	6	83	E	5	30
	30				98

Thus the G.P.A. of the student in that semester will be

$$\frac{\text{total credit points}}{\text{credit hours}} = \frac{98}{30} = 3.26 \text{ (out of a maximum of 5)}$$

- vi) The O.G.P.A. of the student at the end of 6 semesters will be calculated by the sum of credit points obtained in each semester by a student divided by the sum of credit hours of all 6 semesters.

$$\text{Thus O.G.P.A.} = \frac{\sum \text{Credit points secured in all 6 semesters}}{\sum \text{credit hours of all 6 semesters}}$$

In a 5-point system, pass grade G.P.A. in one semester is 2.2 and First Class is at 3.5 O.G.P.A. First class with distinction is pegged at 4.00 O.G.P.A.

It may be marked that pass G.P.A. of 2.2 means that merely passing in all subjects with 'D' grade will not make a G.P.A. of 2.2. This, in other words, means that in the G.P.A. system a student has to pass in all subjects as well as secure such grades in some of them which are higher than the lowest i.e. 'D' so as to attain the minimum G.P.A. required to pass in the semester.

Nevertheless, pegging the pass G.P.A. at 2.2 or first class at 3.5 or first class with distinction at 4.0 out of a maximum G.P.A. of 5.0 is not nonmutable and can be refixed after analysis of and sincere deliberation on the students' performance in one or two semesters after the introduction of the system.