



HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMIC STANDARDS

MINISTRY OF UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

THAILAND

1994

Higher Education Academic Standards

The Ministry of University Affairs has 2 major functions regarding academic standards namely : 1. Academic program approval ; 2. Assessment for degree equivalence.

1. Academic program approval

Prior to 1992, all new curricular programs of higher education institutions under MUA jurisdiction must be submitted to MUA for approval prior to the admission of students. The content of the proposed program should comply with the standards set forth by MUA. (See table attached.)

Procedures in considering academic programs have been carried out in 2 different ways according to curriculum level :

1.1 Undergraduate program

Educational Officers of the Academic Affairs Division, MUA, will consider the undergraduate program by comparing program structure, content and resource with the pre-determined standards of MUA and recommend the approval or non-approval decision to the MUA Standing Committee for final approval.

1.2 Graduate program

The graduate program will be considered by an Ad-hoc Committee since the consideration of program content requires higher level of expertise of experts and professionals in respective fields. After having been approved by the Committee, it will also be submitted to MUA Standing Committee for final approval.

After the program, either undergraduate or graduate, has been approved by MUA Committee, MUA will inform the university of the result and inform the Civil Service Commission for identifying salary scale in case that graduates of such program wish to apply for positions in government offices.

After 1992, MUA's role has changed from granting approval to university program to coordination. Universities are capable of admitting students after programs have been approved by their respective University Councils.

The programs must be forwarded to MUA for information, however. MUA will then compile information on programs to serve students, parents and public. MUA will also continue its responsibility in informing the Civil Service Commission for its further consideration.

2. Assessment for degree equivalence

At present, a number of people seeking employment in Thailand received their education abroad. Among these are Thais who graduated abroad as well as foreigners who have resided permanently in Thailand. To assist the employment application of this special group, MUA renders assessment service to certify the academic background of each individual applicant or identify "degree equivalence" according to MUA standards.

A person who wishes to be assessed for degree equivalence should submit the request form together with academic records to MUA. The Educational Officer of the Academic Affairs Division will compare the person's degree (s) with MUA's standards for various academic program levels, namely: 1) Standards for Certificate program ; 2) Standards for Bachelor 's degree program ; 3) Standards for Graduate degree program ; 4) Standards for Graduate diploma program.

The program or curriculum components to be considered in assessing degree equivalence are : 1. Entry qualifications ; 2. Duration of study ; 3. Number of credits required for graduation ; 4. Courses/subjects requirement ; 5. Academic calendar system ; 6. Evaluation methods ; 7. Other special requirements.

In case that the requester submits adequate documents required, the assessment of degree equivalence will be completed in 2-week time. The result will then be forwarded to the requester in writing.

MUA Standards for Various Program Levels

| Program of study | Entry requirements | No. of program credits | No. of registered credits required per 1 semester | Maximum duration of study allowed | Graduation requirement | Title of degree |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Certificate program | Completing secondary education or equivalent | 90 - 112 | 1. Full-time program : 9-22 credits 2. Part-time program : 6-18 credits (Summer course : 10 credits) | 1. 6 academic years for full-time student 2. 9 academic years for part-time student | Maintaining G.P.A. of at least 2.00 | Certificate in... |
| 2. Bachelor's degree program | 1. 4-year, 5-year, 6-year programs : completing secondary education or equivalent 2. Extended program : completing vocational certificate (upper level) program or equivalent or diploma program in the fields corresponding to the major subjects of the extended program | 1. 4-year program = 120-150 2. 5-year program = 150-188 3. 6-year program = 210-263 4. Extended program = 72-87 | 1. Full-time program : 9-22 credits 2. Part-time program : 6-18 credits | 1. 4-year program 1.1 8 academic years for full-time student 1.2 12 academic years for part-time student 2. 5-year program 2.1 10 academic years for full-time student | Maintaining G.P.A. of at least 2.00 | 1. Academic degree - Bachelor of Arts (...) - Bachelor of Science (....) 2. Professional degree - Bachelor of |

| Program of study | Entry requirements | No. of program credits | No. of registered credits required per 1 semester | Maximum duration of study allowed | Graduation requirement | Title of degree |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | <p>2.2 15 academic years for part-time student</p> <p>3. 6-year program</p> <p>3.1 12 academic years for full-time student</p> <p>3.2 18 academic years for part-time student</p> <p>4. Extended program</p> <p>4.1 4 academic years for full-time student</p> <p>4.2 6 academic years for part-time student</p> | | |

| Program of study | Entry requirements | No. of program credits | No. of registered credits required per 1 semester | Maximum duration of study allowed | Graduation requirement | Title of degree |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| 3. Master's degree program | Completing Bachelor's degree or equivalent | 36 1. Research-oriented 1.1 Thesis = 36 credits 1.2 Thesis = 12 credits Coursework=12 credits 2. Coursework-oriented with 3-6 credit private study | 15 credits | 5 academic years | Maintaining G.P.A. of 3.00 | 1. Academic degree - Master of Arts (...) - Master of Science (...) 2. Professional degree Master of |
| 4. Doctoral degree program | 1. Completing Bachelor's degree or equivalent 2. Completing Master's degree | 1. Research-oriented 1.1 72-credit thesis for students who completed Bachelor's degree 1.2 48-credit thesis for students who completed Master's degree 2. Research-oriented 2.1 Thesis = 48 credits Coursework=24 credits | 15 credits | 1. 8 academic years for students who completed Bachelor's degree 2. 5 academic years for students who completed Master's degree | Maintaining G.P.A. of 3.00 | 1. Academic degree - Doctor of Philosophy (...) 2. Professional degree Doctor of |

| Program of study | Entry requirements | No. of program credits | No. of registered credits required per 1 semester | Maximum duration of study allowed | Graduation requirement | Title of degree |
|--|--|--|---|---|----------------------------|---|
| | | 2.2 Thesis = 36 credits Coursework=12 credits | | | | |
| 5. Graduate diploma program | 1. Graduate diploma program: completing Bachelor's degree or equivalent 2. Higher graduate diploma program : completing Master's degree or equivalent | 24 | 15 credits | 3 academic years | Maintaining G.P.A. of 2.00 | 1. Graduate Diploma in... 2. Higher Graduate Diploma in |
| 6. Advanced Vocational certificate program | 1. 2-year program : completing Vocational Certificate 2. 3-year program : completing secondary education | 1. 2-year program = 80-95 credits 2. 3-year program = 120-135 credits | | 1. 2-year program 1.1 4 years for full-time student 1.2 6 years for part-time student | Maintaining G.P.A. of 2.00 | Advanced Vocational Certificate (.....) |

| Program of study | Entry requirements | No. of program credits | No. of registered credits required per 1 semester | Maximum duration of study allowed | Graduation requirement | Title of degree |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | 2. 3-year program 2.1 6 years for full-time student 2.2 9 years for part-time student | | |

General framework for the all academic programs

1. Academic calendar system : Semester (2 semesters per year)
2. Duration of study per semester : 15 weeks
3. Credit assessment system (No.of hrs. per one credit per semester)
 - 3.1 Lecture credit : 15 hrs./1 semester
 - 3.2 Laboratory credit : 30-45 hrs./1 semester
 - 3.3 Field work credit : 45-90 hrs./1 semester

Remarks No.2 and 3 of Vocational certificate program differ from other programs as follow :

- Duration of study per semester : 18 weeks
- Credit counting system

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Lecture credit | : 16 hrs./1 semester |
| Laboratory credit | : 32-48 hrs./1 semester |
| Field work credit | : 50-75 hrs./1 semester |