





Access to HE Grading Scheme Toolkit

Grading Scheme Summary Diagram

October 2023

Core Principles

Common grading system to ensure the process and grades awarded to Access to HE students are:

- fair and equitable
- clear and transparent
- reliable and valid
- consistent



Key Features

- No overall or composite grade
- Grade awarded for each level 3 graded unit
- Grades shown on an achievement transcript
- Number of separate grades awarded depends on value of each unit offered
- All Diplomas comprise of 45 credits graded Level 3; 15 credits ungraded Level 2 or Level 3

Grading Standards

- Knowledge and understanding
- Subject-specific skills
- Transferable skills

Common set of grading standards used as the basis for grading judgments on all Access to HE Diplomas.



The Grades

(Pass) Merit Distinction

Grading Standards and Units



- Grading Standards define the aspects of performance on which grading decisions for the unit are based
- Units are graded against a combination of the components and sub-components of the Grading Standards
- Student assignment briefs include details of the components and sub-components of the Grading Standards used for grading
- The grade for the unit is determined by the median of the three Grading Standards



Unit assessment plans, assignment briefs and grading decisions subject to internal verification and external moderation processes

The Award of Grades

- Providers recommend unit grades for award by the Access Validating Agency (AVA)
- Grades confirmed at final awards boards run for each course by the AVA

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