

# **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)**

***These regulations apply to students admitted to the BA 4-year ‘2012 curriculum’ from 2025-26 onwards.***

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula)*

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## **Definitions**

**A 1<sup>1</sup>** For the purpose of these regulations and the syllabuses for the BA degree, unless the context otherwise requires:

An ‘academic year’ comprises two semesters, the first semester to commence in September and end in December, and the second semester to commence in January and end in May/June, on dates as prescribed by the Senate. It includes, normally at the end of each semester, a period during which candidates are assessed. A ‘summer semester’ may be organized in addition to the normal two semesters.

A ‘summer semester’ normally comprises seven to eight weeks of intensive timetabled teaching and assessment to commence four weeks after the end of the second semester assessment period, and to conclude about one week before the start of the next academic year.

‘Major programme’ means the study requirements, including a capstone experience, for a single major area of disciplinary, interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary study, accumulating not fewer than 72 credits nor more than 96 credits and including not more than 36 credits of prerequisite and other courses at introductory level, as prescribed in the syllabuses for a degree curriculum.

‘Minor programme’ means the study requirements for a single minor area of disciplinary, interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary study, accumulating not fewer than 36 credits nor more than 48 credits and including not more than 18 credits of prerequisite and other courses at introductory level, as prescribed in the syllabuses for a degree curriculum.

‘School’ refers to a teaching department in the Faculty of Arts, i.e. the School of Chinese, the School of English, the School of Humanities, the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, and units offering courses or programmes outside the Faculty.

‘Centre’ refers to a sub-division of studies and learning in the Faculty of Arts, i.e. the Centre of Buddhist Studies and the Centre for Applied English Studies.

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## **Admission to the BA degree**

**A 2** To be eligible for admission to the BA degree, candidates shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula; and
- (c) satisfy all the requirements of the curriculum in accordance with these regulations and the syllabuses.

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<sup>1</sup> This regulation should be read in conjunction with UG 1 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

### **Period of study**

**A 3** The curriculum for the BA degree shall normally require eight semesters of full-time study, extending over not fewer than four academic years, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of six academic years, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

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### **Selection of courses**

**A 4** Candidates shall select their courses in accordance with these regulations and the guidelines specified in the syllabuses before the beginning of each semester. Changes to the selection of courses may be made only during the add/drop period of the semester in which the course begins, and such changes shall not be reflected in the transcript of the candidate. Requests for changes after the designated add/drop period of the semester shall not normally be considered.

**A 5** Candidates in any semester shall select courses only after obtaining approval from the Heads of the Schools/Departments/the Director of the Centre concerned, and the selection shall be subject to compliance with these regulations.

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### **Curriculum requirements**

**A 6** To complete the curriculum, candidates shall

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations of First Degree Curricula; and
- (b) take not fewer than 240 credits, in the manner specified in these regulations and the syllabuses.

**A 7** Subject to the approval of the Faculty, advanced standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the University in accordance with UG2 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula but advanced credits will not be included in the calculation of the GPA or the classification of honours.

**A 8** (a) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester) unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty, or except in the last semester of study when the number of outstanding credits required to complete the curriculum requirements is fewer than 24 credits.

(b) Candidates may, of their own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year. With the special permission of the Board of the Faculty, candidates may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 288 credits for the normative period of study specified in A3, save as provided in A8(c).

(c) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty may give permission for candidates to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 432 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in the curriculum regulations.

**A 9** To satisfy the curriculum requirements, candidates shall successfully complete:

- (a) the requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations of First Degree Curricula, including:
  - i. a non-credit bearing “CAES1001. Academic Communication in English” course, unless they are exempted through having achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent;
  - ii. 6 credits in an “English in the Discipline”<sup>2</sup> course, CAES9xxx, normally in the second year;
  - iii. 6 credits in Chinese language enhancement<sup>3</sup> course normally in the third year;
  - iv. 36 credits in the Common Core Curriculum within the first three years, comprising at least 6 credits and not more than 12 credits from each Area of Inquiry (AoI) with not more than 24 credits being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits;
  - v. 6 credits in artificial intelligence literacy; and
  - vi. a non-credit bearing course in national education and national security education, and any other non-credit bearing courses as may be required from time to time;
- (b) at least one Arts major programme consisting of:
  - i. 18 credits in introductory courses from any Arts programme(s), including the pre-requisite(s) of the major; and
  - ii. additional credits in the major programme including a capstone experience at advanced level;
 as prescribed in the syllabus for that major; and
- (c) the remaining credits to make up not fewer than 240 credits, which may be chosen from any programme(s) in compliance with the relevant syllabus(es).

## Assessment

**A 10** Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits. Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG8(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

**A 11** Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner:

- <sup>2</sup> (i) To satisfy the English in the Discipline (ED) requirement, candidates who have passed the ED course for a Major but subsequently change that Major are required to pass the ED course for the new Major, or either of the double Majors finally declared upon graduation.
- (ii) Candidates declaring double Majors are not required to take a second ED course but may be advised by the Programme Director to do so. If they fail in the ED course for one of the Majors, they can either re-take and successfully complete that failed ED course, or successfully complete the ED course for the other Major.
- (iii) Candidates who undertake studies in dual degrees are not required to take a second ED course but may be advised by the Programme Director to do so.

<sup>3</sup> Candidates who did not study Chinese language during their secondary education and have not reached the required proficiency level for the Chinese language enhancement course (CART9001) may take a course in either Chinese language or Chinese culture offered by the Chinese Language Centre of the School of Chinese in lieu.

- (a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
- (b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
- (c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
- (d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

Courses in which a candidate is given an F grade shall be recorded on the transcript, together with the new grade obtained if the candidate chooses to repeat the failed course. All fail grades shall be included in the calculation of the GPA and shall be taken into account for the purposes of determining eligibility for award of the BA degree, honours classification and whether a candidate be recommended for discontinuation of his/her studies.

**A 12** Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a D grade or above for the purpose of upgrading.

**A 13** Candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:

- (a) failed to complete successfully 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters, or
- (b) failed to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), or
- (c) exceeded the maximum period of registration as specified in A3.

**A 14** Candidates who are unable, because of illness, to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the First Semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within seven calendar days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

**A 15** Candidates suspended under Statute XXXI shall not be allowed to take, present themselves for, and participate in any assessments during the period of suspension, unless otherwise permitted by the Senate.

**A 16** There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

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### Credit transfer

**A 17** Subject to the approval of the Board of the Faculty, credits may be transferred in recognition of studies completed at other institutions at any time during their candidature. Transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA or the classification of honours.

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### Degree classification

**A 18** To be eligible for the award of the BA degree, candidates shall have:

- (a) satisfied the requirements in the UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula;

- (b) passed not fewer than 240 credits; and
- (c) achieved a Graduation GPA of 1.00 or above.

**A 19**

- (a) The BA degree shall be awarded in five divisions: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours Division One, Second Class Honours Division Two, Third Class Honours, and Pass.
- (b) The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the BA degree in accordance with the following Graduation GPA (GGPA) scores, with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying weightings which are proportionate to their credit values<sup>4</sup>:

Class of honours	GGPA range
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours	(2.40 – 3.59)
Division One	3.00 – 3.59
Division Two	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

- (c) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Graduation GPA and the Board of the Examiners for the BA degree may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Graduation GPA falls below the range stipulated in A19(b) of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.
- (d) A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the degree requirements shall be posted on Faculty noticeboards.

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<sup>4</sup> For students in the 2025-26 intake and thereafter who have successfully completed six 6-credit Common Core courses, the calculation of Graduation GPA is subject to the proviso that either five 6-credit Common Core courses with the highest grades (covering all five Areas of Inquiry), or all six 6-credit courses will be counted towards Graduation GPA, depending on which generates the higher Graduation GPA. For students who have successfully completed two 3-credit Common Core Microcredentials in place of one 6-credit Common Core course, the average grade point of the two 3-credit courses will be treated as the grade point of a 6-credit Common Core course.