

PROCEDURE DOCUMENT - CREDIT CONVERSION GUIDELINES
BASED ON THE WITS SYSTEM

The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg is unable to provide a direct conversion of the Wits credit system into either the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) or the Grade Point Average (GPA). **This document merely serves as a guideline.**

WITS CREDIT – RATING SYSTEM

The South African National credit rating system rates 10 notational study hours as equivalent to one credit (= 1 NQF credit). Credits represent a measure of all the learning activities engaged in by the student and include, among other, contact time, self-study, Work Integrated Learning (WIL) assignments, projects and examinations.

The University operates on a semester basis. Grades are awarded at the end of the semester; the semesters are usually from February to June and July to December.¹

Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor's degree and Bachelor of Honours degree qualification types assume a 30-week full time academic year². Master's degree and Doctoral qualification types assume a 45-week full time academic year. An average full time equivalent student is expected to study for a 40-hour week, thus requiring minimum credit load of 120 credits per academic year for Certificates, Diplomas, and Bachelor's degrees and 180 credits per academic year for Master's degrees and Doctorates. On average, there are four 45 minutes lectures per week, per course. Attendance of tutorials and practicals is usually compulsory.

<i>DEGREE</i>	MINIMUM TOTAL CREDITS PER ANNUM	MINIMUM TOTAL CREDITS FOR A QUALIFICATION
<i>Undergraduate</i>	120	360 (Exit NQF 7)
	120	480 (Exit NQF 8)
<i>Honours</i>	120	120
<i>Masters by Research and Masters (Coursework & Research)</i>	180	180
<i>PhD</i>	360	360

¹ Health Science programmes commence in January and finish Mid December

² Professional Clinical programmes in Health Sciences are longer than the assumed 30 weeks full time academic year



Credit System		Full Academic Credits Per Annum	Semester Academic Credits	Notional Hours – Full time workload for an academic year
<i>European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System</i>	ECTS	60	30	1500 - 1800
<i>Credit Accumulation and Transfer System</i>	CAT	120	60	1200
<i>USA Semester Calendar Credit Hours</i>	US Credits	30	9-12 credit hours per semester	27-36 semester credit hours
<i>1.00 US College credit hour = 1.67 ECTS credits</i>				

NOTIONAL HOURS

Credit System	Notional Hours	Credits
<i>ECTS</i>	25 – 30	1
<i>SA credit-rating system</i>	10	1
<i>US</i>	50 - 60	1
<i>UK</i>	10	1

CREDIT POINTS

United States Value	Foreign Credit Value
<i>0.50 US Credits</i>	1 ECTS (Europe)
<i>0.25 US Credits</i>	1 CATS (United Kingdom)
<i>0.25 US Credits</i>	1 NQF (SAQA) (South Africa)

South African Value	Foreign Credit Value	Calculation
<i>1 NQF (SAQA)</i>	2 ECTS	1 divided by 2
<i>1 NQF (SAQA)</i>	1 CATS	1 multiply by 1
<i>1 NQF (SAQA)</i>	4 USA	1 divided by 4

EXAMPLE – courses taken in one semester:

Course Code	NQF Level	NQF Credit	US Credit Points	US Calculation	ECTS Credit Points	ECTS Calculation
<i>AFRT1001A</i>	5	18	4.5	(18/4)	9	(18/2)
<i>INTR1010A</i>	5	18	4.5	(18/4)	9	(18/2)
<i>POLS2021A</i>	6	24	6	(24/4)	12	(24/2)
<i>POLS3018A</i>	7	18	4.5	(18/4)	9	(18/2)
		78	19.5		39	

The total **ECTS** for the above courses will be **78** credits (Semester Academic Credits is equivalent to 50% of the Full Academic Credits per annum).



Wits Handbooks and Rules & Syllabus' show the credit value of courses.

GRADE CONVERSION TABLE

<i>Class</i>	<i>WITS PERCENTAGE</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>APPROXIMATE EQUIVALENTS</i>	
			<i>USA (GPA)</i>	<i>UK</i>
<i>First</i>	75% and over	A	A	1
<i>Upper Second</i>	70% to 74%	B	B ⁺	2.1
<i>Second</i>	60% to 69%	C	B	2.2
<i>Third</i>	50% to 59%	D	C	3
<i>Fail</i>	0% to 49%	F	F	Fail
<i>FABS</i>	Failed Absent	F	F	Fail