

DISCLOSURE OF GRADE PROFILES, POLYTECHNIC GPAs AND COURSE PLACES FOR SINGAPORE-CAMBRIDGE GCE A-LEVEL AND POLYTECHNIC¹ APPLICANTS FOR THE 2010 UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS EXERCISE

1. To help applicants make their course choices, we are providing information in the following areas:
 - a. Table 1 : Representative grade profiles² of the **10th and 90th percentiles** of applicants offered places in the 2009 University Admissions Exercise for applicants holding Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level qualifications. The grade profiles refer to the grades scored by successful A-level applicants in their 3 H2 and 1 H1 subjects. For the purpose of this exercise, Grade “C” is assumed for both General Paper (GP) and Project Work (PW) in determining the grade profiles. Please note that certain courses may require grades higher than “C” grade for GP. More details can be found at www.smu.edu.sg/admissions
 - b. Table 2 : Representative Polytechnic Grade Point Averages (GPAs) of the **10th and 90th percentiles** of Polytechnic applicants offered places for courses at SMU in the 2009 University Admissions Exercise.
 - c. Table 3 : The number of course places taken up in 2009.
2. Applicants can expect competition to be keener for courses with more stringent grade requirements and fewer places.
3. In using the tables below, please note the following:
 - a. The grade profiles, GPAs and number of course places may vary from year to year, depending on the number and grade performance of applicants, and the number of places available for each degree programme.
 - b. Meeting the previous year’s grade/GPA scores of a course **does not** guarantee admission into that course for the current year. In particular, SMU conducts a holistic assessment in its selection process whereby in addition to academic grades, applicants are assessed on their CCA achievements and for short-listed candidates, an interview will be conducted. For some degree courses, an essay writing for short-listed candidates may also be conducted.

¹ This refers to applicants from Polytechnic Institutions in Singapore : Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic.

² These provide an indication of the grade profiles of the applicants offered places in the previous year. There could be other “equivalent” profiles for each course. For example, a grade profile of ABC/C could be considered to be broadly equivalent to BBB/C, unless there are pre-requisites.

Table 1: Grade Profiles of the 10th and 90th percentiles of A-Level Applicants offered places for courses at SMU in 2009 University Admissions Exercise

SMU Degree	Indicative Grade Profile 3H2/1H1	
	10th percentile	90th percentile
Bachelor of Accountancy	AAB/B	AAA/A
Bachelor of Business Management	ABB/C	AAA/A
Bachelor of Laws	AAA/A	AAA/A
Bachelor of Science (Economics)	ABB/C	AAA/A
Bachelor of Science (Information Systems Management)	BCC/C	AAB/B
Bachelor of Social Sciences	BBC/B	AAA/A

Table 2: Polytechnic GPAs of the 10th and 90th percentiles of Polytechnic Applicants offered places for courses at SMU in 2009 University Admissions Exercise

SMU Degree	Indicative Grade Profile GPA	
	10th percentile	90th percentile
Bachelor of Accountancy	3.77	3.93
Bachelor of Business Management	3.52	3.88
Bachelor of Laws	#	#
Bachelor of Science (Economics)	3.52	3.83
Bachelor of Science (Information Systems Management)	3.23	3.75
Bachelor of Social Sciences	3.35	3.88

Maximum GPA : 4.00

No indicative GPA is shown as the sample size is small.

Table 3: Total number of SMU course places taken up in 2009

SMU Degree	Number of Places
Bachelor of Accountancy	288
Bachelor of Business Management	704
Bachelor of Laws	128
Bachelor of Science (Economics)	234
Bachelor of Science (Information Systems Management)	273
Bachelor of Social Sciences	153

Disclosure of Grade Profiles for GCE A-Level and Polytechnic Applicants Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1 What is the objective of this exercise?

A1 The objective of this exercise is to give applicants an insight on the qualifying grade profiles in the Admissions Exercise 2009 for the different degree programmes. It serves as a guide to help them make an informed choice when applying for admission to these programmes in the 2010 Exercise.

Q2 What do the representative grade profiles for GCE A-Levels mean?

A2 The representative grade profiles refer to the 3 H2 and 1 H1 grades in the Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level examinations scored by applicants who have been offered places in SMU.

Q3 What do the representative grade profile for Polytechnics mean?

A3 The representative grade profiles refer to the Grade Point Average (GPA) scored by applicants from the 5 Polytechnic institutions in Singapore who have been offered places in SMU.

Q4 What do you mean by the 10th percentile and 90th percentile?

A4 This can be best explained by using an example. For example, if the 10th percentile grade profile is ABC/A (3H2, 1H1), it means that 90% of the applicants offered places score above ABC/A. If the 90th percentile grade is AAA/B, it means 10% of the successful applicants score above AAA/B. You can use the same reasoning to interpret the 10th percentile and 90th percentile for Polytechnic applicants.

Q5 Does meeting the 2009 grade profiles mean I will automatically be granted admission in 2010?

A5 Meeting the previous year's GCE A-Level grades or GPA scores of a course **does not** guarantee admission into that course for the current year. In particular, SMU conducts a holistic assessment in its selection process whereby in addition to academic grades, applicants are assessed on their CCA achievements and for short-listed candidates, an interview will be conducted. For some degree courses, an essay writing for short-listed candidates may also be conducted.

Q6 Will the grade profiles and number of course places remain the same in future years?

A6 The grade profiles and number of course places vary from year to year, depending on the number and grade performance of applicants.

Q7 Does SMU intend to provide grade profiles for the IB Diploma and the NUS High School Diploma?

A7 GCE A-Level and Polytechnic applicants form a much bigger pool and therefore, grade profiles for both groups provide useful and insightful information. For the purpose of this exercise, the IB pool and NUS High School pool, being smaller relative to the A-Level and Poly pool, may not provide an accurate picture of the grade profile to prospective applicants. As such, we have not included the grade profiles for both groups.

Q8 How then will applicants with the IB Diploma or the NUS High School Diploma be assessed for admission?

A8 Applicants with the IB Diploma or NUS High School Diploma will be assessed in the same way as those with GCE A-Level or Polytechnic Diplomas. Admission will be on a selective and competitive basis. SMU conducts a holistic assessment in its selection process whereby in addition to academic grades, applicants are assessed on their CCA achievements and for short-listed candidates, an interview will be conducted. For some degree courses, an essay writing for short-listed candidates may also be conducted.