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UCAS Predicted Grades Policy

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Review: October 2022

Introduction

The prediction of UCAS grades is of critical importance. The College has a responsibility to ensure that it does not over predict grades, but that it also provides students with opportunities to aim high and motivate them to achieve.

Key indicators

There are a number of key indicators as to the likely outcome for a student on an A Level programme. The main one is the Progression Exam (PE), which assesses a student's ability to answer questions similar to those in their final A Level examinations, but based on year one content. In addition, Key Assessments (KA) are undertaken in each reporting period. These KAs provide a more regular opportunity for students to be assessed under formal conditions.

How predicted grades are calculated for A Level subjects

The PE is the main indicator of performance. However, it is possible that some students may underperform on the day. Whilst it is recognised that this can occur during the A Level examinations and that nothing can be done in those circumstances, the College is able to remove extreme outcomes by factoring in performance in KAs. This allows an opportunity to benefit students who may have uncharacteristically underperformed in the PE. KA1 is not utilised in the overall calculation, as it is felt that students need time to familiarise themselves with the subjects and assessments.

Therefore, a formula is used to weight the assessments and provide an accurate, yet aspirational grade. The system for calculating predicted grades is published to students and parents in the Lower Sixth year, to make clear to all parties, the importance of ongoing assessments and how students can improve their UCAS predicted grade.

Formula

Each KA grade (KA2, 3 and 4) is given a numeric value as follows:

A* = 6	A = 5	B = 4	C = 3	D = 2	E = 1	U = 0

These are then added together and divided by the number of KA taken (usually 3). The PE grade is also given a numeric value based on the above scale. The following formula is then applied:

Key Assessment Average x 0.25 + Progression Exam x 0.75

This provides a numeric value, which is then rounded and then converted back into a grade using the same scale. Whichever is higher, this grade or the PE grade, will then form the basis of the UCAS predicted grade. The final UCAS predicted grade is then one whole grade higher than this.

U grades

Where a student has achieved a U grade in the Progression Exam, the above does not apply and instead students are offered a Fresh Start course.

A* grades

Where a student has achieved an A* grade in the PE, this will automatically become their UCAS predicted grade. Where a student has achieved an A grade in the PE, the student must have achieved an A* in at least one of their KAs (2-4).

How predicted grades are calculated for non-A Level qualifications

Predicted grades for qualifications such as BTEC and Technical Levels will be calculated based on actual grades obtained in both external and internal assessments throughout the Lower Sixth year.

When grades are published

Predicted grades for A Levels will be issued at the end of the Summer Term. For other qualifications such as BTEC and Technical Levels, the predicted grades will be published in September of the Upper Sixth year, as these cannot be confirmed until after external assessment results have been received from the exam boards.