




ARUCC Annual Conference 2012

How we learned to stop worrying and **love** the CGPA calculation

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McGill University






Graduate Studies @ McGill


- 89 teaching departments that offer over 300 programs
- Approx. 9000 enrolled graduate students (37000 overall)
- Approx. 15000 admissions applications to graduate studies per year
 - 50% are international applications
 - USA, China, Iran, India are our top feeder countries
 - Approx. 4000 offers of admission made each year
 - Approx. 2500 newly enrolled graduate students each year

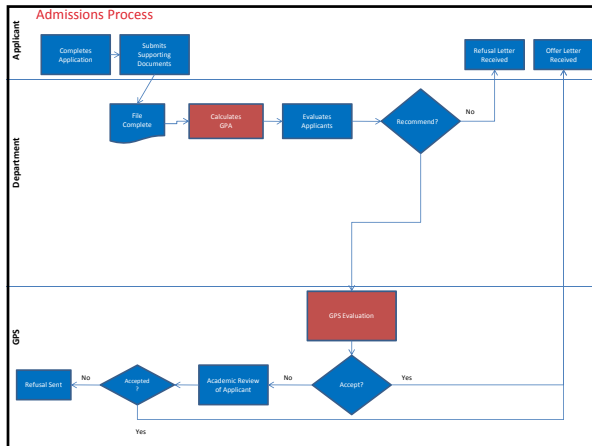




Graduate Admissions Project


- Goals:
 - To assess the current application and evaluation process for Graduate Admissions:
 - The student experience
 - Technological improvement
 - Improving the quality of information available to decision makers
 - To move the current “paper-based” Graduate Admissions Process to a model where information is collected and stored electronically, allowing access from various points in the process workflow.
- Planned Deliverable:
 - New, highly customizable online application form
 - Upload capability for supporting documents
 - In system decision making using e-documents and workflow
 - New applicant and administrative dashboards






Why we calculate the CGPA

- McGill Policy: "...a minimum standing equivalent to a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.0 out of a possible 4.0 or a CGPA of 3.2/4.0 for the last two full-time academic years."
- Comparing apples to apples...
 - Interpreting international grading scales by applying the McGill CGPA calculation algorithm
$$GPA = \frac{\sum (\text{course credit} \times \text{grade points})}{\sum (\text{GPA course credits})}$$
- CGPA Calculation is used for:
 - Determining admissions eligibility
 - Eligibility for internal and external fellowships competitions



Old Calculation Method 1

- Old Process uses an outdated Excel Spreadsheet with macros
- Marks/Grades have to be converted prior to entry into Excel by using the 'Country Fact Sheets'
- Country Fact Sheets only include generic grading scales for a limited number of countries – information is static
- Calculations must be saved as individual Excel files. Sharing is only possible if saved in a network folder.
- Two step conversion process (conversion and data entry) can be very time consuming



Old Calculation Method 2

MEXICO (Central America)

MEXICAN DIPLOMATIC REQUIREMENTS:

- The student must be a Mexican citizen.
- Students must have a valid passport.
- Students must have a valid visa.

CUBA REQUIREMENTS:

- Students must have a valid passport.
- Students must have a valid visa.

Typical Grading Scales


Scale	Percent	Minimum Grade	Description	Grade Point	A in the program
1	90	A	Excellent (A)	4.0	A in the program
2	80	B	Very Good (B)	3.0	A in the program
3	70	C	Good (C)	2.0	A in the program
4	60	D	Satisfactory (D)	1.0	A in the program
5	50	F	Unsatisfactory (F)	0.0	A in the program
6	40	F	Unsatisfactory (F)	0.0	A in the program
7	30	F	Unsatisfactory (F)	0.0	A in the program

New Calculator


- New calculator is web based and can be accessed by any authorized staff member
- Conversion done within the calculator itself
- Many more grading scales available in the new database (more to come on the next slide!)
- All calculation are saved in a central database accessible to all members of each unit
- Eliminates the grade conversion step which will cut down on the time needed to complete each calculation
- Has functionality to allow for quicker and easier calculations in support of Fellowship applications
- A mechanism as been developed in order to allow for the addition of new grading scales as they become available

Grading Scale Database


- 750+ grading scales are now available
- This represents an increase of approximately 1000% over the information previously available.
- The database is made up of both generic country scales as well as scales for specific institutions
- The database will continue to grow over time
- There will be a process in place to allow users to request that scales to be added to the database
- The information contained in the database was researched by the graduate admissions section of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies




Demo



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Questions?



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