

## On Focus ENTRY INTO LOCAL PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

As has been informed and recently published in the daily newspaper, this year's STPM/MOE matriculation applicants for public university's intake had been assessed based on their academic achievement (90%) and co-curriculum involvement (10%).

This method of calculation has resulted in a total of 40,000 students being accepted into the local public universities with 34,951 failing to do so. This is out of a total of 74,967 applicants.

### How are the entry marks calculated?

The calculation of Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) by BPKP (Bahagian Pengurusan Kemasukan Pelajar) for entry into public universities under the academic section (90%) will be based on the STPM candidates' performance in four of their best STPM subjects including the Pengajian Am (General Paper).

Table shows the STPM Subject Grading Score	
Subject Grade	Subject Grade Value
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.00
F	0.00

The calculation of CGPA point is based on the student's 4 best subjects (including General Paper).

Table shows an Example of Calculation of CGPA			
Nos	Best 4 Subjects	Grade Subject	Grade Value
1	General Paper	B+	3.33
2	Physics	B	3.00
3	Chemistry	A-	3.67
4	Biology	A	4.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>14.00</b>

Total Subject Grade Value = 3.33 + 3.00 + 3.67 + 4.00 = 14  
 CGPA = 14/4  
 = 3.5



### Co-curriculum Section - Point Calculation

The remaining 10% of the CGPA is based on co-curricular activities. The calculation of marks by BPKP for entry into public universities under the co-curricular section (10%) is based on STPM candidates' best two out of four best areas of co-curricular activities. Subject Grade Value is given to the position held and the level of

involvement by the students. The highest mark for each activity is 10. The acceptable co-curricular activities are Sports/Games, Uniform Team, Clubs / Association and the NS (National Service) Programme.

### Table shows an Example of Calculation of Average Mark of Co-curricular Activities

The mark is calculated based on two out of four best areas of co-curricular activities, that is, Sports/Games, Uniform Team, Clubs / Association and the NS (National Service Programme). Total marks that can be scored would be 10.

Table shows an Example of Calculation of CGPA				
Nos	Areas	Position held	Level of involvement	Subject Grade Value
1	Sports/Games	5	4	10
2	Uniformed Team	5	3	8
3	Club/Association	5	2	7
4	NS	3	3	6
<b>Total Marks (based on best 2)</b>				<b>= 10 + 8 = 18</b>
<b>Average Mark</b>				<b>= 18 / 2 = 9</b>

### Total Score

#### Calculation of Total Merit Marks

Based on the above example, the total mark scored by the candidate is:

**Total Merit Marks** = Academic Mark + Co-curriculum Mark

= (3.5 / 4 x 90) + 9

= 78.75 + 9

= **87.75**

(Note: The perfect score for merit marks is 100)

### The reason to include co-curricular activities

This method of calculation for entry into local public universities is not new. Prior to the introduction of the meritocracy system in 2002, the method of taking into consideration co-curricular activities as a major deciding factor when there was a tie in the CGPA was practised. This year, this method is again in place. According to government officials, this method was brought back in line with the Government's goal to produce more holistic (well-rounded) students; students who are active and not just exam-oriented.

This means that for this year, students with 4.0 cumulative grade point average top scorers in their Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia and matriculation succeeded in gaining entry into their preferred courses. It means that a student who has, for example, 3.6 CGPA (81 marks) and is active in sports, especially if he is a hockey captain or represent Malaysia in badminton, he will maybe get the 10 full marks for co-curricular activities, thus bringing his total mark to 91, which is more than the 4.0 CGPA student. Thus, the success of the candidates depends on the merit marks, the choice of courses and the varsity selected, according to Higher Education Ministry Director-General Datuk Dr Hassan Said.

### Cross-checking of co-curricular marks

Datuk Dr. Hassan added that currently, students calculated and filled up their co-curricular marks themselves based on the information given by the government to the schools. In the case of those who scored high marks (six and above) in co-curricular activities, the ministry and the varsity would cross-check the information with their schools. From next year onwards, a system by which the schools will submit the results of the co-curricular activities will be set in place in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Malaysia.

### Online Appeals

Students who fail to gain entry into public universities can appeal through the ministry's e-Rayuan system on its website [www.mohe.gov.my](http://www.mohe.gov.my) while those who received offers for courses not of their choice are to contact their preferred varsity directly latest by June 30.

(Source: NST, Education Guide Malaysia)