

Announcement of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Research, and Innovation
Subject: Undergraduate Program Standard Criteria B.E. 2565

By virtue of provision of Clause 21 of Ministerial Regulations on Higher Education Program Standards B.E. 2565, regarding the meeting No. 6/2565 (special meeting), on 30th June B.E. 2565, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Research, and Innovation passed a resolution and shall hereby announce as follows:

1. This Announcement is called “Announcement of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Research, and Innovation: Undergraduate Program Standard Criteria B.E. 2565”.
2. This Announcement is prescribed for all major fields in the undergraduate program, including a new program to open and a modified program to be offered by the university, both public and private. This Announcement shall be enforced after the provision of the Announcement of Government Gazette and on 27th September B.E. 2565, onwards.

3. In this Announcement:

“MHESI” means the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Research, and Innovation;

“full-time faculty member” means a person whose position is a lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor or professor and other equivalent positions in the university as prescribed by the University Council, or a person in an external organization who is, under the co-production agreement, responsible for the higher education mission and who has understanding in higher education qualification standards;

The full-time faculty member whom the university recruits on the effective date of this Standard Criteria shall hold English proficiency test scores that meet the criteria determined by the University Council;

“program faculty member” means a full-time faculty member who holds the qualifications corresponding or related to a major field of the program as approved by the University Council; and who has a duty on teaching and doing research relevant to the major field. It is possible that the program faculty member be responsible for several programs, simultaneously;

“qualifications related to the major fields of program” means the qualifications in compliance with the major field standards. In case that any major fields are not included in the major field standards or that the announcement of major field standards does not prescribe such qualifications, thereby meaning the qualifications in relation to academic or professional degree curriculums or other qualifications with recognized, direct experience related to the program to enhance students’ learning outcomes as prescribed in the program though teaching and learning in accordance with the curriculums of major fields. The qualifications related to the major fields of program are in the University Council’s discretion;

“faculty member responsible for the program” means a program faculty member who manage and develop curriculums and instruction ranged from planning, quality control, monitoring and evaluation, to curriculum development. The faculty member responsible for the program shall be involved throughout the implementation of the program and shall not be simultaneously

responsible for more than one program. Nevertheless, in exception, the faculty member responsible for the program can be responsible for the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary program, but not more than two of the faculty members can take this exceptional case;

“part-time lecturer” means the instructor who is not a full-time faculty member;

“co-production agreement” means an official cooperative accord ratified by the university and an external organization, for curriculum development and management, approved by the University Council and the external organization;

“external organization” means a domestic or overseas university only certified by a unit responsible for education of the country, or a department of government agency or equivalent, or a state enterprise, or a public organization, or a private company listed in the Stock Exchange of Thailand;

In the event that the private company is not registered in the Stock Exchange of Thailand, under discretion by the University Council, the company shall perform its potential and readiness to co-produce graduates and meet quality requirements in compliance with the higher education standards;

“practical experience” means collaboratively working with a workplace that holds a work performance certificate beneficial for the workplace, or a labor skill standards certificate; or that holds a published academic work relevant to technological development or science and technological innovation related to the industrial sector.

4. Diploma Title and Degree Title

The university that has enacted the Royal Decrees on the full title of degree and the abbreviated title of major field shall keep complying with the Royal Decrees. Nevertheless, in case that a title of degree has not been included in the Royal Decrees or that the university has no enactment of Royal Decrees stating a full title of degree and an abbreviated title of major field, the title of degree shall be named in accordance with the degree title designation criteria prescribed by MHESI.

5. Philosophy and Objectives

The aim highlights graduate production relevant and aligned with the national higher education development plan, higher education philosophy, University philosophy, academic and professional standards so that the production of the university's graduates is based upon the belief that quality manpower must be individuals with a sense of good citizenship creating benefits to society and with the potential to be self-reliant on the basis of Thai wisdom with ethics, for the country to become sustainable and to meet international standards.

In the above regard, the objective is to oversee and promote the graduate production process that emphasizes the development of learners to have a complete human character. Additionally, the learners are to be developed to be able to live their lives in a multicultural society under globalization with borderless communication, obtain the potential of lifelong learning skills, acquire the ability to work according to the standard framework and codes of conduct, and create work that is beneficial to the learners themselves and society, locally and internationally. The undergraduate program is divided into two categories as follows:

5.1 Undergraduate Academic Degree Program is categorized into 2 types as follows:

5.1.1 Academic curriculum emphasizes producing graduates to be technically and practically knowledgeable through work operation in an organization; and emphasizes academic knowledge and skills to be creatively applied and used in a real situation.

5.1.2 Academic advancement curriculum is for exceptionally talented learners. It emphasizes producing graduates with high knowledge and capacity by providing the regular curriculum and fostering the learners' potential; the learners can study certain courses offered in the graduate program which encourages the learners to conduct insightful academic research. The academic advancement curriculum shall require the learners to study at least 12 courses of the graduate program.

5.2 Undergraduate Professional/Practical Degree Program consists of two categories as follows:

5.2.1 The profession/practical curriculum emphasizes the learners' theoretical and practical wisdom pinning knowledge and academic and professional competency and skills, or technical competency and skills in a certain field of study through work operation in an organization.

Only this curriculum can be offered under the bachelor's degree program (continuing program); it is a part of the bachelor's degree program and completely reflects the philosophy and content of a particular bachelor's degree. The word "Continuing Program" is identified in parentheses after the title of program.

The higher education institution that aims to produce individuals in the bachelor's degree program (continuing program) shall aim at producing graduates by enhancing their existing practical or professional skills and providing advanced practicum so that the graduates can become academic practitioners after their graduation. The emphasis is that teaching and learning management, therefore, focuses (1) participatory teaching and learning between an organization and the higher education institution and (2) the integration of theoretical and practical teaching and learning management for the exposure of realistic work contexts.

Certain number of lecturers must have practical experience. A lecturer, additionally, must have understanding in higher education qualification standards.

5.2.2 The advanced professional/practical curriculum is the curriculum designed for exceptionally talented learners. It emphasizes producing graduates with advanced professional and practical knowledge and competence through the regular curriculum and certain courses offered in the graduate program. The learners shall be fostered to conduct insightful research or to acquire advanced practice in an organization. The advanced professional/practical curriculum requires the learners to study at least 12 courses of the graduate program.

6. Educational Management System

The semester system is the bi-semester system per academic year, with not less than 15 weeks per semester or equivalent.

A summer session may be organized with number of hours and credits equivalent to the proportion of the regular semester.

The university that offers other education systems count the duration of study comparable to the bi-semester system as regulated by the University Council. The university is required to clearly provide details of education management system in the curriculum consisting of the following: duration of learning module equivalent to the course credits of the bi-semester system, theoretical and practicum courses, internship or field work, projects and other assigned activities, thesis, independent study, all of which are aligned with the education management system regulated by the University Council.

7. Credit Value in the Bi-semester System

7.1 Theoretical Course:

Not less than 15 hours of lecture/discussion per regular semester = 1 credit

7.2 Practical Course:

Not less than 30 hours of practice/experiment per regular semester = 1 credit

7.3 Internship/ Field work:

Not less than 45 hours of internship/ field work per regular semester = 1 credit

7.4 Projects/ Other assigned activities:

Not less than 45 hours of projects/ assignment per regular semester= 1 credit

7.5 Other assigned activities creating student's learning:

Total hours of the activity per regular semester = 1 credit as regulated by the University Council

Other systems may be used in the university that does not offer the bi-semester system by calculating duration of study and course credits comparable to the bi-semester system as regulated by the University Council.

8. Number of Credits and Duration of the Program

8.1 Bachelor's Degree Program (4-year Program)

- Total number of credits not less than 120 credits

8.2 Bachelor's Degree Program (5-year Program)

- Total number of credits not less than 150 credits

- 8.3 Bachelor's Degree Program (6-year Program)
- Total number of credits not less than 180 credits

- 8.4 Bachelor's Degree Program (Continuing Program)
- Total number of credits not less than 72 credits

9. The Curriculum Structure consists of General Education, Specialized, and Free Elective courses with the following proportion of credits as follows:

9.1 General Education courses can be defined as the courses which are focused on strengthening humanity for the current and future global world in order to holistically become a citizen who can learn with curiosity and acquire 21st Century skills, recognize the importance of integrated sciences for either developing or solving problems, create opportunities and value for themselves and society, be literate for a changing the community and the world, be an active citizen with ethics and integrity, value their national root and identity, cooperate well for creation and sustainable development, and become a valuable global citizen.

The university may conduct general courses separately or use any integrated learning approaches to complete the objectives of the general education.

The management for General Education of Bachelor's degree (Continuing) program may exempt the subjects that have been studied in Higher Graduate Diploma or Diploma level.

9.2 Specialized courses can be defined as core courses, courses for specific purposes, professional foundation courses and professional courses that aim to provide the learners knowledge, understanding and workability. The total number of credits of specialized courses are as follows:

9.2.1 Academic Bachelor's Degree Program (4-year Program)

- The total number of credits of the specialized courses not less than 72 credits.

9.2.2 Professional/Practical Program Bachelor's Degree (4-year Program)

- The total number of credits of the specialized courses not less than 72 credits by studying practical courses not less than 36 credits and theoretical courses not less than 24 credits

- The total number of credits of the specialized courses in Bachelor's degree (Continuing) program not less than 42 credits and theoretical courses not less than 18 credits

9.2.3 Bachelor's Degree (5-year Program)

- The total number of credits of the specialized courses not less than 90 credits

9.2.4 Bachelor's Degree Program (not-less-than 6-year Program)

- The total number of credits of specialized courses not less than 108 credits

The university may classify specialized courses as single major courses, double major courses, or major and minor courses, with not less than 30 credits of major courses and not less than 15 credits of minor courses.

In case the program offers only double major courses, the total number of credits for major courses must be increased not less than 30 credits, and the total number of credits not less than 150 credits. For Advanced Bachelor's degree program, students are required to take specialized courses in the graduate level for not less than 12 credits.

9.3 Free Elective Courses can be defined as courses that aim to provide the learners knowledge and understanding according to their expertise or interests by providing opportunities for them to choose any courses in a bachelor's degree program that is set by the university with total number of credits not less than 6 credits

The university may exempt or transfer credits of general education courses, specialized courses, and free elective courses for students whose knowledge and ability can be assessed in accordance with the criteria and methods for transferring credit as well as academic performance in the higher education level as specified by MHESI. However, the students are required to complete the total number of credits as specified in the program that they study.

10. Qualifications, Attributes and Number of Instructors

10.1 The undergraduate academic program consists of the following respects.

10.1.1 The program faculty member holds at least a master's degree or equivalent or holds the academic title of assistant professor or equivalent; and owns the academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at one article in the past 5 years.

In light of the co-production agreement with an external organization, a master's degree and academic contributions can be exempted for a person from the external organization. However, that person shall hold at least a master's degree or equivalent, corresponding or related to the major field of program, have work experience in the organization, or continually experience the same kind of work for not less than 6 years.

10.1.2 The faculty member responsible for the program holds the same qualifications and attributes as the program faculty member does. A minimum is of 5 faculty members responsible for the program.

In light of the co-production agreement with an external organization, the university that owns the program shall arrange at least 3 program faculty members to act as the faculty members responsible for the program.

In the event that the program provides more than one major course, the faculty members responsible for the program with the qualifications and the attributes corresponding or relevant to the major fields can be arranged for the courses. In this regard, there shall be at least 3 faculty members responsible for the program per each major course.

In the event that it is deemed extremely necessary that number of the faculty members responsible for the program to oversee a major field does not reach the amount as prescribed, the university shall propose the amount and the qualifications of the available faculty members responsible for the program to MHESI for case-by-case consideration.

10.1.3 The lecturer is possibly a full-time or part-time lecturer who holds at least a master's degree or the equivalent, or the academic title of assistant professor or equivalent, in the major field or related field of study or the course on duty in the major field.

The full-time faculty member who holds a bachelor's degree or equivalent or who acts as the lecturer before the issue of Announcement of Undergraduate Program Standard Criteria B.E. 2565 can keep on the duty as the lecturer.

In light of the co-production agreement with an external organization, a master's degree and academic contributions can be exempted for a person from the external organization. However, that person shall hold at least a master's degree or equivalent, and have work experience in the organization, or continually experience the same kind of work for not less than 6 years.

In the event that the part-time lecturer holds no aforementioned qualifications, the lecturer shall be deemed a distinguished expert who owns well-qualified knowledge and recognized experience corresponding or related to the course under the approval of the University Council. In case of a necessity for a part-time lecturer required for a course, the full-time faculty member is deemed to take responsibility, in collaboration, for teaching and learning process and student development throughout teaching and learning of the course.

10.2 Professional/Practical Degree Program and Bachelor's Degree (Continuing Program) consists of the following respects.

10.2.1 The program faculty member holds a master's degree or equivalent or holds the academic title of assistant professor or equivalent; and owns the academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least one article in the past 5 years.

In light of the co-production agreement with an external organization which is not a university, a master's degree and academic works can be exempted for a person from the external organization. However, such person shall hold at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent, corresponding or related to the major field of program, or have work experience in the organization, or continually experience the same kind of work for not less than 6 years.

10.2.2 The faculty member responsible for the program holds the same qualifications and attributes as the program faculty member does. A minimum is of 5 faculty members responsible for the program.

In light of the professional or practical degree program focusing the skills in technical practice in the discipline, two of the total 5 of the faculty members responsible for the program must have the practical experience.

In light of the co-production agreement with an external organization, a minimum of 3 program faculty members of the university that owns the curriculum can act as the faculty members responsible for the program.

In the event that the program provides more than one major course, the faculty members responsible for the program holding the qualifications corresponding or relevant to the major fields can be arranged for the courses. In this regard, there shall be at least 3 faculty members responsible for the program per each major course, and one of them must have practical experience.

In the event that it is deemed extremely necessary that number of the faculty members responsible for the program to oversee a major field does not reach the amount as prescribed, the university shall propose the amount and the qualifications of the available faculty members responsible for the program to MHESI for case-by-case consideration.

10.2.3 The lecturer is possibly a full-time or part-time lecturer who holds at least a master's degree or equivalent or who holds the academic title of assistant professor or equivalent, in the major field or related field of study or the course on duty in the major field.

The full-time faculty member who holds a bachelor's degree or equivalent or who acts as the lecturer before the issue of Announcement of Undergraduate Program Standard Criteria B.E. 2565 can keep on the duty as the lecturer.

In light of the co-production agreement with an external organization, a master's degree can be exempted for a person from the external organization. However, that person shall hold at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent and have work experience in the organization, or continually experience the same kind of work for not less than 6 years.

In the event that the part-time lecturer holds no aforementioned qualifications, the lecturer shall be deemed a distinguished expert who owns well-qualified knowledge and recognized experience corresponding or related to the course under the approval of the University Council. In case of a necessity for a part-time lecturer required for a course, the full-time faculty member is deemed to hold responsibility, in collaboration, for teaching and learning process and student development throughout teaching and learning of the course.

11. Qualification of the Applicants

11.1 Bachelor's Degree Program (4-year, 5-year, and not-less-than 6-year programs)

- Have a certificate of secondary education or equivalent.

11.2 Bachelor's Degree Program (Continuing Program)

- Have a higher graduate diploma or equivalent, or a diploma or equivalent in the fields related to the program expected to study in accordance with the University Council.

11.3 Bachelor's Degree Program (Advanced Academic/Professional/Practical Program)

- Have a certificate of secondary education or equivalent with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.50 or equivalent, as well as have obtained a grade point average of at least 3.50 at the end of every semester during the study in the advanced program. If an undergraduate student obtains a grade point average of less than 3.50 at the end of any semester, he/she will be considered disqualified from the advanced program.

12. Registration Guidelines

The maximum of course credits for all full-time students is 22 credits per semester, and the maximum for all part-time students is 9 credits per semester.

For the registration for summer sessions, the maximum is 9 credits per session.

In case of a special case and necessity, number of credits to be registered may differ from the above guidelines by the University Council's approval, and with no effect on the standards and quality of education.

13. Assessment Criteria and Graduation Requirements

All graduating students are required to have completed all the courses and numbers of required credits in the program, have obtained a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 and have achieved all learning outcomes in accordance with undergraduate program qualification standards.

The university using different criteria and requirements must set up a system to make the grades translatable.

Termination of student status without graduation shall be in accordance with the requirement set by the University Council.

14. Degree and Academic Performance Record

To issue a degree certificate and an academic performance record, title of the degree, the major field and all the completed courses must be specified to exactly match with all the program documents that MHESI approved of.

15. Program Quality Assurance

Every program is required to set up the quality assurance system according to the requirements from the University Council.

16. Program Development

Every program must update and develop the curriculum by program evaluation and a performance report every academic year. The results could be used for program modification in accordance with the periodical program rotation or every 5 years.

17. In case the program fails to follow the mentioned guidelines, or it is necessary to act beyond the requirements in this Announcement, MHESI takes the case into consideration and MHESI's decision is final.

