

Exit Exams

Purpose

The Oman Academic Standards (OAS) for the General Foundation Program (GFP) mandates an exit assessment to evaluate whether students have achieved the required GFP learning outcomes in four key areas: English, Mathematics, Computing, and General Study Skills.

“As there are no standardized national tests, each HEI (Higher Education Institution) has the responsibility for developing its own methods of assessment against the student learning outcomes in these standards. The HEI must demonstrate that the chosen assessment method is effective in determining whether the student has attained the required learning outcomes.” (OAS 2.4 f page 8)¹

Therefore, the DU Centre for Preparatory Studies (CPS) administers exit exams at the final levels of the Foundation Program (FP). In addition to their term-end exams, Level 3 English students and Level 2 Math and Information Technology (IT) students are required to take these exit exams.

Exit Exam Format and Assessment Criteria

At the CPS, all exit exams are conducted online in computer labs to evaluate whether students have achieved the required proficiency levels in English, Mathematics and IT to exit the program and progress to their major studies.

English: Cambridge English Placement Test (CEPT) is used to evaluate students' language proficiency according to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) which is an internationally recognized system for measuring English language abilities.

Mathematics and Information Technology: Custom-designed in-house exams are administered to evaluate students' knowledge and skills in these subjects, ensuring they meet the necessary standards for academic advancement.

Exit exams account for 50% of the overall grade, with the remaining 50% coming from course assessments in the final levels. To pass the final level, students must achieve a minimum combined score of 50% in each subject.

Promotion and Exit Requirements

Students are regularly assessed to monitor their progress and achievement of the set learning outcomes. They are provided with every opportunity to advance to higher levels, provided they meet the promotional requirements outlined in the syllabus.

Students who fulfill the exit criteria for the final levels are eligible to complete the Foundation Program (FP) and proceed to their chosen university majors. However, taking an Exit Exam is mandatory for all students as part of the promotion requirements to the university

¹ Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education. (2008). *Oman academic standards for general foundation programs*. Retrieved January 5, 2025, from <https://www.oaaqa.gov.om/getattachment/54ac4e6a-0d27-4dd9-b4a2-ba8759979c25/GFP%20Standards%20FINAL.aspx?b=0>

Progression Requirements for College Majors

Students can only progress to their college majors after successfully completing all FP requirements (English, Math, and IT) with an overall passing grade of 50%.

Students pursuing a major in Architectural Engineering must achieve a minimum score of 60% in English, Math, and IT to advance to their college program.

Exit Exam Awareness and Practice Opportunities

Final-level students are oriented on the purpose and format of the exit exams and are given multiple opportunities to practice during class sessions. To further support their preparation, mock exams are made available on the Moodle platform, enabling students to familiarize themselves with the exam structure and practice independently at home.

Exit Exam Coordinators: Roles and Responsibilities

Exit exam coordinators, in collaboration with Section Heads and Coordinators, are responsible for organizing, administering, and publishing exit exam results.