



Belgian Nuclear higher Education Network

Common criteria
for passing course units and
for succeeding the BNEN year of study

Article 1 (criteria for passing course units)

A student shall be deemed to have succeeded in a course unit if **at least 10 out of 20 points** or a 'pass' assessment has been awarded.

In both cases a **credit certificate** shall be delivered to the student, unless the enrolment fee was not paid on time or fraud has been established.

Article 2 (weighting)

In order to establish the **percentage** obtained for the BNEN year of study, the individual course results are weighted by the number of ECTS characteristic of that course and/or master project work or thesis.

The BNEN Teaching Committee, at its discretion, can decide to adjust or modify the ECTS allocation of the particular courses and master project work or thesis in general, or for individual students in case those students request credit transfer from earlier course work or from exchange courses. If changes have occurred compared to the previous year, the new arrangement shall be made public at the start of the academic year.

The course units that are only assessed by means of the 'pass/no pass' system are excluded from the calculation of the (weighted or unweighted) percentage.

Article 3 (criteria for succeeding the BNEN year of study)

All courses are graded with marks out of 20; i.e., each result is expressed as x/20 with 0. le. x .le. 20. A grade less than 10/20 is referred to as a 'failing grade'.

Definition:

For each failing grade for a course, the number of 'fail points' is defined as the number of points below 10/20. E.g., a score of 08/20 amounts to two 'fail points'.

If applicable, the number of 'fail points' for several courses is added together to obtain the total number of 'fail points'. E.g., a score of 08/20 for one course and 09/20 for another course amounts to three 'fail points'.

A student shall be deemed to have passed the complete BNEN year of study when one of the following two conditions has been met:

a) s/he has passed all courses of the year of study (10/20 or 'pass'); i.e., a **percentage of 50%** suffices if all courses have been passed successfully.

b) in case of course failure (other than the master thesis/project), a maximum of two scores of 09/20 can be 'pardoned' by the Examination Board, on the condition that every 'fail point' is

BNEN is a consortium of the Belgian universities *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (K.U.Leuven)*, *Université catholique de Louvain (UCL)*, *Université de Liège (ULg)*, *Universiteit Gent (UGent)*, *Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)*, *Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)* in collaboration with the *Nuclear Research Centre SCK•CEN*.

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'overcompensated' by 2 %-pts in the average percentage score. This means that the Examination Board is willing to award the degree even in the following cases:

student has one 09/20 but at least 52 % on average;
 student has two 09/20 but at least 54 % on average.

c) in case of course failure (other than the master thesis/project), a maximum of one score of 08/20 can be 'pardoned' by the Examination Board, on the condition that every 'fail point' is 'overcompensated' by 2 %-pts in the average percentage score. This means that the Examination Board is willing to award the degree even in the following case:

student has one 08/20 but at least 54 % on average.

d) as a rule, in case of a total of more than 2 'fail points' (i.e., the accumulation of all marks short of 10), students will not be 'pardoned'.

e) for the master project/thesis a minimum score of 10/20 is always required.

In exceptional circumstances the Examination Board may decide to award a pass to a student who failed to meet the criteria set forth in the present examination regulation. Each member of the Examination Board or the ombudsperson may request a secret vote. If the Examination Board decides (whether by secret vote or not) to award a pass to the student in such a case, it shall justify its decision by citing the special circumstances that prompted the decision.

In the case of students who follow a part-time or personalized itinerary arranged according to a program of several study years, the Examination Board shall only take a decision on whether a student has passed or succeeded if the latter has obtained results for all the course units of one year of study.

For students not satisfying the requirements to pass as laid down in this Article 3, the decision will be recorded as '*adjourned*', except for an incomplete submission as explained in Article 4.

Article 4 (special examination board decisions)

The BNEN examination board may establish that a student:

- is guilty of irregular conduct and decide to impose one of the sanctions as described in the examination regulation of the university of registration.
- has not participated in all exams and has therefore submitted an **incomplete result**, in which case a decision is made to postpone a final judgement on said student. On the transcript, the decision will be recorded as '*incomplete*'.

Article 5 (criteria to obtain a Master's degree and levels of achievement)

The student who has passed the BNEN year of study obtains the degree of Master in Nuclear Engineering.

Students who have a reduced study load and whose program of study is divided differently in time, shall obtain the degree of Master when they have passed each of the course units of their program of study, albeit taking into account the conditions set out in Article 3.

A student obtaining the degree of Master shall be awarded with the following levels of achievement:

- *satisfaction* (cum fructum), if the student passes according to the rules laid down in Article 3;
- *distinction* (cum laude), on condition that 68% of the marks have been obtained and that all course units received a mark of at least 10/20;
- *great distinction* (magna cum laude), on condition that 77% of the marks have been obtained and that all course units received a mark of at least 10/20;
- *greatest distinction* (summa cum laude), on condition that 86% of the marks have been obtained and that all course units received a mark of at least 10/20;
- *greatest distinction* (summa cum laude) *with the congratulations of Examination Board*, on condition that 90% of the marks have been obtained and that all course units received a mark of at least 10/20.

For each 9/20 or in case of an 8/20; two and four percentage points, respectively, are added to the above mentioned requirements for levels of achievement. The mention "Congratulations" can not be awarded if there are marks below 10/20.

William D'haeseleer
September 30, 2006

Accepted by the BNEN Steering Committee Meeting nr. 28