



Thesis Grading Standards for 2009 Graduates

Abstract

This document presents the objectives, format, and grading, and graduation standards for GITC Class of 2009 graduates. These standards apply to all graduates, regardless of topic complexity or program.

Objectives

The primary objective of the thesis project is to demonstrate the graduate has competency in the subject matter at a level expected after completing a two year curriculum. Secondary objectives are:

- Reinforce subject matter taught during other courses.
- Demonstrate the student understands engineering concepts such as requirements, design, development, and test.
- Provide guidance to potential employers about how the student would perform in a work environment.

Although our goals include promoting the secondary objectives, we will graduate all students who meet only the primary objective.

Grading Format

All students must submit the final project and thesis paper no later than 23:59 on July 3, 2009. Updates submitted later will not be considered.

On July 4, each student will meet for fifteen minutes with a thesis committee consisting of the following four people:

- Thesis supervisor
- Independent instructor appointed by GITC administration
- GITC Deputy Director
- GITC Executive Director

Each student will present their project and thesis paper to the committee. These documents will be reviewed in soft copy on computers.

Grading Standard

The following are the possible grades that can be given to a student for the work performed on the thesis:

- Pass: The student met or exceeded the primary objective. The student performed adequate original research. The student managed effort and time spent on the project to the level demonstrating full competence in the curriculum.

- **Pass With Reservation:** The student almost met the primary objective. The student performed original research and managed the project, but to a standard slightly below that needed to demonstrate full competence in the curriculum.
- **Fail:** The student did not meet the primary objective. The student did not do sufficient work to demonstrate full competence in the curriculum.

The thesis supervisor will recommend one of the above grades to the committee. The full committee will deliberate and vote to confirm this grade assignment.

Note that the grading standard is as follows: did the student meet the primary objective? Successfully completed projects of inadequate scale may merit a grade of Fail. Incomplete projects of sufficient scale may merit a grade of Pass. The supervisor and committee will evaluate the student's demonstration of competence in performing the work, and not necessarily the success or failure of the project itself.

Graduation Standards

Students will be eligible for graduation based on a combination of the grade received on the thesis and academic performance per the following table:

Thesis Grade	GPA	Comment
Pass	12	The student met all requirements without exception.
Pass With Reservation	14	The student almost met the thesis requirement, but received more than adequate scores in the regular curriculum.
Fail	16	The student did not meet the thesis requirement, but received sufficiently high grades that subject matter competence does not come into question.

The Executive Director will certify the list of graduates in accordance with this practice and other standard operating procedures.