

SWAP Profile Grades

At the end of the SWAP programme, your course tutor will award you three profile grades. These grades are an assessment of your performance throughout the year in all areas of the course.

Profile grades indicate your ability to succeed academically at degree level and are used by universities to make decisions on admissions. Entry to university will depend on you achieving specific SWAP profile grades (e.g. AAA or BBB). It is important to note that SWAP Profile Grades are not the same as SQA Higher exam grades.

All students must successfully complete the programme to be given an overall SWAP profile grading. Students who withdraw early from the programme or who fail a unit cannot be given a profile grading.

Profile grading for students in arts, humanities, social sciences and nursing.

You will be awarded three grades (A-C) reflecting your performance in the three key academic skills: Knowledge, Understanding, and Analysis.

Knowledge

The ability to quickly absorb new information and acquire and develop broad knowledge of a variety of subject areas.

Understanding

The ability to develop a depth of understanding of the central concerns and approaches to a variety of subject areas.

Analysis

The ability to evaluate different points of view with insight and engagement.

Your performance will be assessed according to the evaluation criteria (see next page). The grade awarded for each key skill will be an average of your performance in all of the subjects you have studied.

Grade Descriptors	
Grade A	
Summary	Very able overall performance suggesting that degree level work will be well within the capabilities of this student.
Evidence	Assessed work consistently exceeds the minimum requirements and demonstrates very effective independent study skills.
Grade B	
Summary	Able overall performance suggesting degree level work will be within the capabilities of this student.
Evidence	Assessed work always meets and sometimes exceeds the minimum requirements and demonstrates effective independent study skills.
Grade C	
Summary	Diploma level work may be more appropriate for this student.
Evidence	Assessed work meets the minimum evidence requirements and demonstrates independent study skills.

Profile Grading for students in science and engineering.

You will be awarded three grades (ranging from A-D) reflecting your performance in the three main subjects of your programmes as follows:

SWAP access programme	Subject areas assessed
Biological/Life Sciences	Maths, Biology, Chemistry
Physical Sciences	Maths, Physics, Chemistry
Engineering	Maths, Engineering, Technology

Each subject grade is based on an average of your performance in all units studied. Grades will be determined according to the science and engineering evaluation criteria (see next page).

Grade Descriptors	
Grade A	
Summary	Achieved the units with great ease and displayed a very able overall performance. Degree level study should be well within the capabilities of this student.
Evidence	Assessed work is submitted on time and is usually complete and accurate. This may include any relevant assessed coursework e.g. research reports, laboratory reports, presentations, and practical assessments. Assessments are sat on time and passed at the first attempt and with no or only a few minor errors. Student demonstrates good practical laboratory skills.
Grade B	
Summary	Achieved the units with relative ease and required little or no assistance. Displayed an able overall performance. Degree level study should be within the capabilities of this student.
Evidence	Assessed work contains some errors, but shows a clear understanding of most topics. This may include any relevant assessed coursework e.g. research reports, laboratory reports, presentations, and practical assessments. Student demonstrates satisfactory practical skills. Student may have been required to retake an assessment. Assessments are of an acceptable standard with little revision required.
Grade C	
Summary	Achieved the units but required considerable assistance. Diploma level study may be more appropriate than degree level work for this student at this stage.
Evidence	Assessed work is adequate. This may include any relevant assessed coursework e.g. research reports, laboratory reports, presentations, and practical

	assessments. Student required to repeat most assessments following remediation.
Grade D	
Summary	Achieved some units or some outcomes but with great difficulty. Student is not yet ready for higher level study.
Evidence	Much of the assessed work is either unsatisfactory or not completed. This may include any relevant assessed coursework e.g. research reports, laboratory reports, presentations, and practical assessments. Assessments frequently require to be repeated. Assessed work is frequently submitted late and / or is of a poor standard or incomplete. Considerable assistance is required to enable the student pass units or outcomes.