



Introduction

Predicted grades are an important part of the application process for higher education. Mount Mercy College will provide UCAS/ Eunicas university predicted grades for students that request such grades in 6th year. Predicted grades are to support student applications, so that universities are best able to assess students' potential and suitability for their chosen courses.

1. How are predicted grades decided?

Mount Mercy College adopts a consistent and evidence-based approach to predicted grades, which ensures that predictions are both aspirational and achievable and a true reflection of each student's ability and potential.

Subject teachers determine the predicted grades for their students, as they know them best, and are able to draw upon a wealth of experience and professional judgement in making predictions.

Predicted grades will be based upon the student's performance during 5th and 6th year and teachers will consider the following factors when making their decisions:

- Assessment results throughout year 5 and 6.
- End of Year 5 summer exam results, Christmas results at year 5 and 6.
- Performance on homework assignments and tests
- Student's attitude and commitment to learning.
- Practical evidence or other non-examined elements

Persistent absenteeism will have a negative impact on a student's education and performance. High levels of absenteeism will make it difficult for a teacher to give an accurate predicted grade.

Predicted Grades

The end of year exams in the summer term of 5th year and Christmas of 6th year will be the key basis of the UCAS/Eunicas predicted grades, given that this will be the closest experience to the final exams.

Depending on timelines the 6th year Christmas exams may not be used for some courses /colleges as the submission date for these may be prior to the Christmas house exams.

The factors listed above will also be considered in the overall decision.

The guidance counsellor will request and collect the predicted grades from subject teachers and communicate these grades with students prior to submission of relevant course application. Teachers will predict grades that they feel are a true and honest reflection of the student's performance in 6th year taking into consideration their ability and potential.

With that in mind, a student cannot be given predicted grades that are not supported by evidence of their performance in 5th and 6th year and a student will not be predicted a grade where there is little or no evidence of their performance at that level.

For example, a student who consistently achieves H4 grades in assessed work during 5th/6th year may be given a predicted grade of H4 or a H3 if they have an excellent attitude and commitment to learning and assessment results show improvement towards them achieving a H3 grade. It is unlikely, however, that such a student would be predicted an H2 grade, as the evidence would not support such a prediction. Therefore, whilst predicted grades can be optimistic, assuming high levels of commitment to learning, to support students in their applications, decisions will be rooted in the evidence of a student's performance during Year 5 and 6.

Subject teachers will not base predicted grades on a student's wishes, what the student needs to get into a particular course, or on a student's promises that they 'will work harder' or get grinds.

At Mount Mercy College, we therefore expect that students set high standards for themselves from the start of Year 5 and address the feedback they receive from their teachers during the year to facilitate academic progress. A solid Year 6 performance will not only lead to predictions that leave the student with as wide a number of options as possible but will provide the best platform for overall success.

In extreme circumstances where students' grades have significantly dropped, parents and students are advised to make an appointment with the year head/ principal to discuss this.

2. Over-inflated predictions

It is understandable that students and parents may desire teachers to overpredict predicted grades in order that a student may access a particular university course. However, we have a professional and moral obligation to ensure that all students have realistic expectations with regards to their abilities, whilst remaining motivational and aspirational.

There are a number of potential consequences of over-predicting grades, such as:

- Students find themselves without a university place when they receive their results, as they achieved what teachers originally predicted, but not the higher grades that were requested.
- Future Mount Mercy College students are affected, as the school's reputation for accurate predictions is diminished.

■ Teachers are asked to go against their professional judgement and honest opinion, which is not moral, nor fair to other students who are given an accurate prediction that may be lower than they would like.

3. When are predicted grades finalised?

Teachers provide UCAS predicted grades along with comments for students' UCAS references in the January of Year 6.

Students will be informed of their UCAS Predicted Grades in January, so that they can make an informed decision regarding their personal statement.

Teachers provide predicted grades for courses/Eunicas as per the date required by such colleges.

Personal Reference

Where required the referee must be the teacher who teaches the student the subject in a classroom setting on a full-time basis.

No canvassing clause

Teachers' professional judgement must not be put under undue influence from stakeholders in the predicted grade process and no canvassing will be tolerated within this process.

Signed by Clare McCutcheon Chairperson of the BOM
Clare McCutcheon

Date : 29/05/2023

I/We have read the above policy and are aware of the predicted grade process in Mount Mercy College.

Signed by: _____
Parent Student

Date: _____

