Long Road Sixth College

Statement on Predicted Grades for University Applications and References.

This guidance clarifies the way in which Long Road Sixth Form College calculates predicted grades for student applications to Higher Education, Apprenticeships or any other application where such a grade is required.

This statement is available to staff, students, parents, university admissions staff and employers.

Purpose of Predicted Grades

1. **University applications**
   1.1. Applications for university are mainly made through the (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) UCAS, although students may apply for providers that sit outside of this system (for example non-UK Universities).
   1.2. Predicted grades remain integral to the decision making process of universities, although how they use them in practice varies significantly.
   1.3. Grades are only one element in the selection process. Universities review a number of factors, and there is no single formula for this. Universities consider predicted grades, historical performance in public examinations, the student's Personal Statement, the college's Reference and, in some areas such as Medicine, relevant work experience.
   1.4. The UCAS definition for predicting grades is that it is, "the grade of qualification that the applicant's school or college believes that the applicant is likely to achieve in positive circumstances."
   1.5. With the removal of the AS qualification and the re-introduction of linear A Levels, the importance of the predicted grade as an indicator of academic ability has increased, but nationally the accuracy of the prediction has decreased nationally, according to UCAS research.

2. **As an indicator of progress**
   2.1. It should be made clear to students that the Prediction for UCAS is made with their best interests in mind for progression, not necessarily the most likely outcome based on current progress.
   2.2. Grade Working At is the current level of attainment on the course, based on recent assessment.

How Long Road Predicts Grades for UCAS applications

3. **A Levels**

3.1. UCAS Predicted Grades for 2 year A Level courses are first produced in the summer term (June) of Year 1. The Predicted Grade is the teacher's professional judgement based on the Key Assessments, classwork and homeworks during the year.

3.2. Key Assessments are milestone assessments over the two year Study Programme. There are six Key Assessments over two years, four in Year 1 and two in the second year. The assessments are planned according to expected level of difficulty and content for the appropriate stage in the year, culminating in Mock examinations in the Spring Term of the second year which would be at full A Level standard.

3.3. Course Teams plan other assessment activity according to the nature of the course. The nature, timing and frequency of this assessment will vary according to the subject. For example. Mathematics may set more frequent practice questions than an essay based subject.

3.4. Greater weighting in teacher judgement is given to assessments as the course develops and the nature of the Key Assessment becomes more closely aligned to the final examination.

3.5. It would be unlikely that the predicted grade would be lower than the mark gained in Key Assessment 4 (in the summer term), but it could be slightly higher if the student has produced higher level work during the year.

3.6. Course Teams with non-examination assessment (NEA) will also take any progress seen in that component into consideration when predicting the grade.

4. **Applied General Courses**

4.1. Applied General courses have a greater proportion of non-examination assessment (NEA) contributing to their final grade and assessed during the course. Some also have externally examined assessment taken during the course as well as at the end.

4.2. Applied General courses will base the predicted grade on completed NEA and the results of any external examination already achieved.

5. **Use of and amendments to the Predicted Grades**

5.1. The predicted grade produced in the Summer Term of Year 1 will provide Progress Coaches and other staff involved in guidance work to support students with appropriate university choices.

5.2. In the Autumn Term of the second year, teachers will review the predicted grade based on the first Key Assessment of the second year and any other evidence accrued since the Summer Term.

5.3. The predicted grade can only be changed on the basis of evidence that the student is capable of working at that level. The evidence should be as secure as possible, for example assessed work in exam conditions. Any NEA completed should also be taken into account.

5.4. The predicted grade is unlikely to be changed after the Autumn Half Term break.

5.5. The predicted grade will not be raised without academic evidence, for example to increase the chances of the student being made a conditional offer, or to increase the probability of the student being offered an 'unconditional' grade. This would denigrate the advice and guidance given regarding appropriate applications and undermine the integrity of the process should the college predictions become increasingly inaccurate.

6. **Appeals and disputes**
   6.1. Where a student believes the predicted grade should be higher, the teacher should explain how the evidence has been used to generate the grade in the first instance.
   6.2. If there is still dispute, the student may be offered an opportunity to complete additional assessed work, for example a past paper, and this could be taken as additional evidence provided it was completed in appropriate conditions that would give the teacher assurance that it could be replicated.
   6.3. Where the student still disputes the predicted grade, the evidence will be referred to the Head of Department or Leadership Team for review. There is no further appeal.

7. **Ex-students and retakes**
   7.1. Predicted grades for ex-students applying for university will be the last prediction made before they completed their Study Programme irrespective of any retakes. I.e. the predicted grade will not be increased merely because a student is retaking when the teacher has not assessed any new material.

For UCAS guidance and principles of Grade Prediction, please follow this hyperlink https://www.ucas.com/advisers/managing-applications/predicted-grades-what-you-need-know

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