

These regulations have been worded carefully to be up to date; however, errors cannot be completely excluded. The official German is the version that is legally binding.

Note: Students who started their studies before the latest amendment came into effect are requested to also comply with previous amendments and the respective transitory provisions.

**Regulations governing the Qualification Assessment
Process
in the Bachelor's degree program in Integrated Life Science
– Biology, Biomathematics, Biophysics at the Faculty of
Sciences at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)
Dated March 22, 2011**

amended by statutes of
June 4, 2012
May 20, 2020
April 26, 2023
May 28, 2024

Based on Section 13 (1) and Section 44 (4) of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (Bayerisches Hochschulgesetz, **BayHSchG**) in conjunction with Section 34 of the Qualification Regulations for Studies at Public Universities in Bavaria (Qualifikationsverordnung (**QualVO**)), FAU enacts the following regulations:

Contents:

Section 1 Scope, Purpose of the Qualification Assessment Process	1
Section 2, Committee, Examiners.....	2
Section 3 Qualification Assessment Process, Admission.....	2
Section 4 Details of the Qualification Assessment Process	2
Section 5 First Stage of Qualification Assessment Process	2
Section 6 Second Stage of the Qualification Assessment Process	3
Section 7 Record.....	4
Section 8 Resit Examinations	4
Section 9 Legal Validity	4
Appendix	5

Section 1 Scope, Purpose of the Qualification Assessment Process

¹In order to start studying the Bachelor's degree program in Integrated Life Science – Biology, Biomathematics, Biophysics in the first semester or to join at a later semester, students must fulfill all general qualification requirements and pass the qualification assessment process pursuant to these regulations. ²During the qualification assessment process, applicants must prove that they meet the specific quality requirements of the degree program and can be expected to successfully complete the degree program.

Section 2, Committee, Examiners

¹A committee consisting of at least one professor as the chairperson together with at least two other lecturers shall be responsible for organizing and conducting the qualification assessment process. ²The members and the chairperson and two deputies each shall be appointed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Sciences for a term of office of two years; re-election shall be permitted. ³The committee may appoint full-time lecturers at the Faculty of Sciences or retired lecturers as examiners for the purposes of conducting individual interviews pursuant to Section 6 (2). ⁴The affairs of the committee shall be governed by Section 41 BayHSchG.

Section 3 Qualification Assessment Process, Admission

(1) ¹The qualification assessment process is held in the summer semester for admission in the following winter semester. ²Applications for admission to the qualification assessment process must be submitted online within the deadlines announced according to local practice for admission in the winter semester, using the relevant forms and attaching the documents listed in paragraph (2). ³The committee may extend the deadline under certain circumstances.

(2) The application shall include:

1. Copy of university entrance qualification
2. Signed chronological curriculum vitae in a tabular form
3. If applicable, an overview of any course and examination achievements completed at an institute of higher education with the confirmation of whether the degree programs in question were failed at the final attempt or if the applicant is still entitled to sit examinations.

(3) In order to be admitted to the qualification assessment process, applicants must submit the documents listed in paragraph (2) to FAU.

Section 4 Details of the Qualification Assessment Process

(1) ¹There are two stages to the qualification assessment process. ²An overall score is determined for each stage.

(2) If a grading system is used that is not equivalent to the system used in Germany, the Admissions Office shall convert the grade of the university entrance qualification accordingly.

(3) ¹The average grade of the applicant's university entrance qualification is converted to a scale of between 0 and 100, with 0 the worst and 100 the best possible score. ²The scale shall be set in such a way that the lowest possible pass mark for the university entrance qualification shall be awarded 40 points (see Appendix for conversion formula).

(4) ¹Applicants shall be informed in writing of the result of the process. Admission shall be granted for the winter semester immediately following the date of the qualification assessment process.

Section 5 First Stage of Qualification Assessment Process

(1) During the first stage of the qualification assessment process, a total score shall be derived as a weighted average of the following criteria:

1. Score for university entrance qualification with the weighting 1/2

2. Score for grade in mathematics with a weighting of 1/4
3. Score for grade in the alternative subject of physics or biology or chemistry with a weighting of 1/4.

(2) ¹ Grades pursuant to paragraph (1) nos. 2 and 3 shall be calculated from the arithmetic average of all subject grades for each semester in the final years of senior school (Oberstufe) as stated in the applicant's university entrance qualification. If grades are available for several alternative subjects, the alternative subject with the best grade shall be used to calculate the score. If the grades for any of the alternative subjects are poorer than a 3 in the German grading system, paragraph (4) shall apply. ³Grades shall be converted to give a final score in accordance with Section 4 (3). ⁴Section 4 shall apply in instances where it is not possible to determine grades pursuant to (1) nos 2 and 3.

(3) ¹ Applicants shall be considered suitable if their total score pursuant to (1) is at least 75. ²In this case, the process ends at this stage.

(4) All other applicants shall proceed to the next stage of the qualification assessment process.

Section 6 Second Stage of the Qualification Assessment Process

(1) During the second stage of the qualification assessment process, a total score shall be derived as a sum of the following criteria:

1. Score for university entrance qualification with the weighting 1/2
2. Score for the selection interview with the weighting of 1/2.

(2) ¹The committee shall announce the date of the selection interview at least one week in advance. ²The selection interview is not public. ³The selection interview is held as an individual interview lasting approximately 20 minutes with at least one examiner appointed pursuant to Section 2 (3) or one of the lecturers in the committee and an observer pursuant to Section 10 General Degree Program and Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programs at the Faculty of Sciences at FAU dated October 28, 2019, in the currently valid version. ⁴The selection interview is intended to determine whether the applicant can be expected to achieve the learning outcome of the degree program by taking an independent, responsible and motivated academic approach. ⁵The interview will test and evaluate the applicant's knowledge of the basics of biology, with a focus on molecular biology and biochemistry, the basics of mathematics, and the basics of physics at the level of a German secondary school (Gymnasium) (weighting of subject knowledge $\frac{3}{4}$) and the applicant's knowledge of the requirements of the degree program (weighting $\frac{1}{4}$). ⁶The selection interview is assessed with an individual grade and a score according to the following table:

Individual grade selection interview	Score selection interview
1.0 = sehr gut (very good)	100
2.0 = gut (good)	80
3.0 = befriedigend (satisfactory)	60
4.0 = ausreichend (sufficient)	40
5.0 = mangelhaft (poor)	20

- (3) ¹Anyone who does not appear at the arranged appointment or withdraws after the selection interview has commenced shall be deemed not suitable, unless the reasons for this are beyond the student's control. In the event of sentence 1, clause 2, the committee shall allow the applicant to attend the selection interview on another date. ³The reasons according to sentence 1 clause 2 must be explained and shown credibly to the Examinations Committee without delay. ⁴In cases where the applicant is ill, the applicant shall be required to submit a doctor's certificate; a certificate from an official medical examiner may be requested.
- (4) ¹Any applicants who obtain a total score of 70 or above shall be deemed suitable. ²All other applicants shall be considered unsuitable.

Section 7 Record

An official record shall be produced of the qualification assessment process, showing the date, duration and place of the assessment, the names of the applicants and examiners, if applicable bullet points listing the main questions and answers covered during the selection interview, and the decision of the selection committee.

Section 8 Resit Examinations

Applicants may attempt the qualification assessment process one more time, at the soonest at the next date scheduled for the qualification assessment process.

Section 9 Legal Validity

- (1) These regulations shall come into effect on the day after their publication.
- (2) The qualification assessment process shall be suspended for studies beginning in winter semester 2020/2021 and winter semester 2021/2022.
- (3) The qualification assessment process shall be suspended for studies beginning in winter semester 2023/2024.
- (4) The qualification assessment process shall be suspended for studies beginning in winter semester 2024/2025.

Appendix

Conversion formula

Different grades shall be converted to points on a scale ranging from 0 to 100 according to the provisions stipulated in Sections 1 to 3. 100 points shall correspond to the best possible grade attainable and 40 points to the lowest possible grade which still counts as a pass.

1. German grading system where 1 is the best and 6 the poorest grade

$$\text{Points} = 120 - 20 * \text{grade.}$$

Grades 1,2, ..., 5 and 6 therefore correspond to 100, 80, ..., 20 and 0 points. Grade 4 corresponds to 40 points. As university admission qualifications are given with only one digit after the decimal point in German school-leaving certificates, there is no need to round to a whole number for the purpose of using the formula according to no. 1.

Example: Grades and score for university entrance qualification with grades between 1.0 and 4.0:

Grade of university entrance qualification	Score for university entrance qualification
1.0	100
1.1	98
1.2	96
1.3	94
1.4	92
1.5	90
1.6	88
1.7	86
1.8	84
1.9	82
2.0	80
2.1	78
2.2	76
2.3	74
2.4	72
2.5	70
2.6	68
2.7	66
2.8	64
2.9	62
3.0	60
3.1	58
3.2	56
3.3	54
3.4	52
3.5	50
3.6	48
3.7	46
3.8	44
3.9	42
4.0	40

2. German points-based system (e.g. in the final years of senior school) with 15 as the best and 0 as the worst possible achievement

$$\text{Score} = 10 + 6 * \text{points.}$$

3. Any numerical grading system with grade N, with N_{opt} equivalent to the best possible grade and the grade N_{best} the lowest possible pass grade.

$$\text{Score} = 100 - 60 * (N_{\text{opt}} - N) / (N_{\text{opt}} - N_{\text{best}}).$$

If the score calculated on the basis of this formula is not a whole number, it will be rounded up to the next whole number to the benefit of the applicant.

Example: The Bulgarian grading system is as follows: N_{opt} = 6, N_{best} = 3 and 1 is the worst possible grade. The given formula is simplified as follows: score = 100 - 20 * (6 - N).