

Special Consideration in Assessment for my B.Sc. and M.Sc. grades

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Sharif University of Technology is the top Iranian University of engineering in Tehran Iran with over 770 academics serving students in international and PhD levels. Sharif University of Technology [S.U.T.] only train its top students in each department of engineering as a PhD student with scholarship each year at top international universities. These universities are M.I.T., Stanford, Harvard, etc. At the time I was studying at Sharif, we were only 120 mechanical engineering students, which that university chose among top 63000 applicants with high school diploma. My high school G.P.A. is 98% which is 8% higher than what you require for your students G.P.A. This grade was achieved in top Iranian high school "Marjan private High School" and my major during year 10-12 was Maths, Physics and English only.

At Sharif University of Technology **Two Semesters Fall and Spring 1974-1975** was a very a turning point in Iranian history. Sharif University gets its second name due to this point of time in history of Iran. The university when I enrolled in was named: Aryamehr University, established by King Muhammad Reza Shah of Iran as best and well equipped Iranian University with advanced laboratory machinery and facilities for all engineering disciplines. However, the gifted students who were admitted to that university were not the most favourite students for the king of Iran. There was a guard established at University with military facilities to hurt students physically and arrest them for long jail if they protested any unfair events happening at university. This system had caused some students who needed freedom of speech as well as equitable education to strike at exam time by tearing up exam papers of students at exam time, asking examined students to leave the exam theatre. After enrolling at Sharif University of Technology for the first time in Fall Semester 1974-1975 and sitting in many exams in that fall semesters, also sitting in similar exams in the second semester of Spring semester 1974-1975 soon I found out what was happening at the top Iranian University which enrolled from a national contest, the top 1000 students majored in Maths, Physics and English of all Iranian Universities, who were the top of all applicants in that national contest [Annual Konkour] once a year.

We had done lab work, solved all major assignments, got our marks during semester, we sat in quizzes for all important classes, but we could not pass the final exam of that semester if some of our students in that class started a strike by standing up in exam venue and tore exam papers of students, ran away! The grading for the semester would be based on only what was achieved during the semester without any exam grade!

Could you please look at my grades in attached informal document which I sorted them, and wrote them with modern key board and PC? Do you see the unusual grades in my B.Sc. grade document? Why this student has such good grades as high as 95% but has fail grades belonging to year 1974-1975 [two semesters]?

Your answer is in revolution taking place in Iran after the king of Iran shut down all Iranian Engineering schools during [spring semester 1977 - fall semester 1978-79]. On my transcript is written: Term cancelled with me gaining only 84 units among 144 units during 6 semesters [3 years study at Sharif University of Technology [previously called Aryamehr]. Government cancelled all the terms in that period which revolution in Iran happened. Also, please see attached document showing I was enrolled at San Diego State University-California during 1978-1979. Iranian revolution happened, parents who did not see any outcome from their gifted students except going to jail, being killed by the King of Iran went to streets of Tehran and burnt old car tires in middle of streets burned cinemas, and the king ran away to USA in aeroplane with all his family and most high officials of Iran in February 1979. I watched the News in San Diego when after the university shut down, I used my English Scholarship given to me by Iranian government to live and study overseas with most of my expenses and fees partly be subsidised by a much cheaper US\$ Exchange rate. This was because after high school graduation I participated in English contest nationally in Iran and gained top 12 of all 63000 applicants rank in Iran in my English knowledge [1974].

Government of Iran which was 2,500 years monarchy, changed to Islamic Republic in February 1979. In my grade transcript page 1 of 2 my absence from university is recorded: "Authorized Absence" [Spring 1978-79]. therefore, in same grade transcript university recorded: **Spring Semester 1977-78 - Term cancelled. Fall Semester 1978-79 - Term cancelled. Spring Semester 1978-79 Authorized Absence.**

Above three semesters are the contingencies happening during my study at Aryamehr University when King of Iran was trying to fix and cover a revolution starting at Sharif University by gifted students who protested interfering military guard at university, lack of freedom of speech and a very high difference between people's classes in Iran. Those strikers are not among us anymore, but were killed because they demanded freedom and social justice. Those who tore up our exam papers were arrested and put in jail and my grade as a student sitting and doing exam was failed because my exam grades were not considered in semesters [Fall 1974-75] and [Spring Semester 1974-1975] only. So, we students only got marks for our assignments and quizzes not for exams in those two semesters. Please compare my grades with what I achieved in semester Fall 1975-76 with average grade 17.23 out of 20 which is over 86% when our exam papers were not torn by strikers in that semester and we

gained our exam marks and university did not punish all students due to some strikers tearing up our exam papers. Is not this unfair?

You are welcome to judge my 86% G.P.A. of third semester I enrolled at Aryamehr University as my academic ability.

Semester 1 and 2 of 1974-1975 shows my G.P.A. is: 63.35% and 48.95% which are below average G.P.A. of 65% in Aryamehr.

Therefore, in diversity assessment for university students grading the special consideration applies to all Aryamehr University students who were affected by their exams not being marked due to strikers who felt horrible after their 16 university friends were killed in previous semesters in Evin Jail in Tehran, did something by tearing up our exam papers! All classes that such events of strike happened in them were assessed only by interim results, with exam papers not considered. As we all left the exam venue and ran away from guard of university who chased every student by a bat in the exam venue. We could get brain damaged if we did not run away in that situation. We noticed blood of students on the floors when we ran from those exam venues. We heard strikers shouting and reciting some strike wording which were all demand for getting rid of king of Iran!

However, my university has recorded that passing grade for graduate students till spring 1984-1985 is 13 [65%] and after this is 12 [60%]. EP=Examination postponed. In Fall semester 1974-75 which was the first semester of my study at Aryamehr university 4 exams are recorded with grade EP. That means students strikes had marked EP. But the next semester Spring 1974 they passed us for those 4 subjects with fail grades because the grading was based on interim results for fall semester and not for the torn exam paper. I became very sick after the strike as my grades would not show my academic capacity, since my father was a doctor, he stopped me to go to university in second semester of 1974-75. You will see even Modern Art was graded 8.5 out of 20 which is 42.5%! So, the new unit I enrolled was not even giving me any result due to being sick all semester, resting at home, as my father was thinking life is more important than grades in a situation guard at university might arrest any student in exam venue which strikers tear up exam papers! My father did not let me to participate fully in units again I enrolled by saying I should not study in such dangerous academic environment and staying home or even fail grade is better than studying there. He quickly paid for my expenses to fully study in USA and you would see attached document that I was studying 1978-79 at SDSU in California.

Grading after revolution became better but we could not go to university for 2.5 years as new revolutionary government shut down universities to do cultural revolution and change the curriculum. During this time, I was

working as a project engineer in advanced renewable energy projects and CAD Projects requiring programming and software engineering. Grade 75% was passed for my work during that time in unit: Project in course 28-900 - Project, semester Spring 1982-83 for work done on "software writing for standard gear boxes to design and manufacture for first time in Iran for a factory owning 650 imported German Gearboxes which required replacement with new ones" supervised by Dr Rahim Pourabdollah at "Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology [IROST]". The work was 1.5 years full time [6 days/week and 12 hours/day] during "Iranian cultural revolution" period [1980-1982].

After the new government opened the universities, we noticed at the old curriculum we were required to pass 140 units to graduate from Bachelor degree, which I had completed 114 units before this cultural revolution up to spring semester 1979-80. After the cultural revolution they added 15 units to my required units to graduate, so 155 units were required to graduate from Bachelor degree. The idea was that the revolutionary government had acknowledged that university before Iranian revolution [fall semester 1974-75 to spring semester 1978-79] had assessed students unfair for those units which their examination was faced with strikers tearing exam papers of those in exam venue, so they added 15 units, so students can claim 15 failed units to be cancelled from their academic records in case the G.P.A. could play a role in their career success.

I was not advantaged to stay in Iran and claim for failed units in the first 2 semesters of my study at Sharif University of Technology [Previously named Aryamehr University of Technology]. I emigrated to Australia after graduation from my M.Sc. degree from Shiraz University. So even if I could, there was no time in short two months holidays I visited Iran in the last 30 years ago, to follow up the unfair grades in first two semesters of my B.Sc. degree.

The top student in my year of entry to B.Sc. was called Mr Amir Abdullah, who is now a professor of manufacturing in mechanical engineering department in one of three Top Iranian universities, called "Amir Kabir University" he told me in 2012 that his G.P.A. in B.Sc. degree in Sharif University of Technology in mechanical engineering was 83%. My G.P.A. at Sharif University of Technology for my B.Sc. degree is 72%. Therefore, I gained 11% less than the best student in our 120 students in class of 1974-75 entrance. Professor Amir Abdullah studied his PhD with scholarship in England supported by Sharif University of Technology top student Scholarship of the year of entrance [1974-75].

Prof Abdullah, our top student never suffered as a woman being discriminated in a majority being men engineering field [1 female out of 119 male students plus one other female mechanical engineering student]

also he was much stronger emotionally and would not have to stay home one semester as his feelings could get hurt in strike, and bloodshed situation of strikes [second semester 1974-75]. I had to stay home and my father would not allow me to participate full in university life and most of the time I was home resting and relaxing as semester 1 had hurt my feelings with what I witnessed at university of striking students in demand of freedom and social equity and the way king Muhammad Reza Shah treated strikers by labelling them, sending guards to arrest them, putting them in jail and killing them, so another strike from their friend were going to start in following semesters. This was the situation we students of Sharif University were as the most gifted students in engineering those days and how my grades from 98% in best Tehran High School was affected to down to 49% in semester 2, 1974-75. Almost half!!! And my G.P.A.=86% in Fall semester 1975-76 shows I even gained 3% more in my G.P.A. in that semester than the total G.P.A. of our top student [best achiever]. This was after relaxing from the stresses of strikes memory in my exams time.

The following calculation would fix this unfair assessment of king of Iran over my grades during 1974-75:

Total Units gained in B.Sc. course: 155 units
 G.P.A.: 14.38 out of 20

Sum of all grades achieved in the degree of B.Sc. = X
 X: 155 = 14.38

X = 155 × 14.38 = 2229 Sum of all grades [for each unit] in B.Sc.

Fall and Spring Semesters 1974-75 fail grades [less than 13]					
Course No	Title	Unit	Grade	Value	Sum
23-011	General Chem I	3	10.5	3×10.5	31.5
22-011	General Math I	4	11	4×11	44
23-001	Gen Chem Lab I	1	10	1×10	10
24-002	Physics Lab II	1	12.5	1× 12.5	12.5
24-011	Physics I	3	6	3×6	18
26-011	Introd Chem Eng	1	7	1 ×7	7
35-011	Eng Graphics I	2	9	2 × 9	18
37-133	Modern Art	3	8.5	3 × 8.5	25.5
Total Units failed in 8 subjects		18			
Sum of all "Units × Grades" in above list					166

Therefore **166 summed grade** is under dispute for total sum of **18 units in 8 subjects**.

2229 – 166 = **2063** Sum of all fair “**grades × Units**” in total B.Sc. course.

Total units gained in B.Sc. course = **155 units**

155-18 = 137 total number of units in B.Sc. course which graded **fairly**

2063: 137 = **15.06** G.P.A. for fair graded units in B.Sc.

G.P.A. = 15.06 out of 20 or **75%** fair G.P.A. for Afsaneh Motamedi [Cooper] in her B.Sc. degree.

Unfair Grading during my M.Sc. course

After Iranian Revolution, being admitted to M.Sc. degree at Shiraz University which is one of the top 5 Iranian Universities required an exam. I passed that exam and became top 6 of all 40 applicants. I was the only girl in my class of 6 in 1985 when our classes started at Shiraz University. However, stresses of 1975 have left me with a disorder which I had to control my stresses under supervision of my G.P. Leaving my family home and living a dormitory of 1000 student with limited space to live in a shared single room with another female student was a challenge of Shiraz University which put too much stress on me in the second semester: fall 1985. My roommates were changed several times and it was hard to keep food in the room, and things disappeared, and I could not even find room in fridge to store food for myself. All basic food I needed to survive such as sugar, butter, eggs, meat, were restricted by coupon during my study as it was during war with Iraq. Hours of waiting in a que just to buy 100 grams butter, 500 grams sugar, 5 eggs, was required from several different shops not just one super market! When the food was purchased either the student I shared dormitory room with would take it, or her visiting friend from another room! Meat and fruit in shared fridge would be pinched! We were fed as part of scholarship I had with Shiraz University, which I got student loan for my food, transport and travel expenses with free dormitory [one small shared room with another]. To settle down in such hard situation while my thesis had just started at M.Sc. I had to spend 12 hours/day at library for my research work. Stresses gained of hard life never experienced before [with no food when roommate ate all my cooked food] and hunger at night when I returned from library, made me see my G.P. He told me I was sick and should not study at all. However, I did study and just did not study for a unit which was not in the field of my study but was compulsory to pass with no relevance to my field of study and research: Advanced thermodynamics.

This unit although I showed a doctor certificate for its exam that I was not well at the exam time to university head of department, but upon university rules, they just passed fail for an unwell student without giving extension, so student pass the unit in another time. Academics in Iran would not spend their time on such extended exams for special consideration in assessment. Special needs were not included in Iran Hight Education at that time.

I suggest for the reasons explained above please consider the same calculation as above for my special consideration as follows for my M.Sc. G.P.A.:

Total attempted Credits: 44 G.P.A. = 14.71

$$44 \times 14.71 = 647$$

First Sem. of Fall 1985:

Course Title: Adv. Thermodynamics, **3 Credits, Grade: F=8**

$$3 \times 8 = 24$$

$$647 - 24 = 623 \text{ [attempted credits} \times \text{G.P.A.] - [Unfair credits} \times \text{fail grade]}$$

$$44 - 3 = 41 \text{ number of fair credits I passed}$$

$$623: 41 = 15.2 \text{ G.P.A. for M.Sc. degree for fair graded units passed}$$

Therefore, if you consider based on another Persian Results for PhD that says it was only required to pass 38 units in M.Sc., and my grade transcript in English says I passed 41 credits, therefore removing a 3 units [Adv. Thermodynamics=fail grade of 8 out of 20] from my academic records does not make any difference, as my M.Sc. was specialised in Mechanical Engineering – Applied Design, and this thermodynamics have never been used by me in any practical job I have recorded in my resume, as a solid design mechanical engineer.

Accepting that my G.P.A. in my M.Sc. could be as high as 15.2 out of 20 means my G.P.A. in M.Sc. is 76%

The research part of my M.Sc. degree course was 1.5 years full time out of 3.5 years full time M.Sc. degree. **However, the units allocated to the M.Sc. thesis was in original Persian Academic Results shows my grade for 9 credits thesis all up is 16.50 out of 20 which is 83% [rounded].**

Hereby I request Monash University adjust my G.P.A. for Masters degree from Shiraz University to be 76%, Thesis being 43% of the total degree time of 3.5 years by time and thesis credits being 24.4% of the total units passed in Master's degree course. Total credits passed for thesis was 10 credits, and total credits passed in Master's degree course was 41 credits. Therefore, I can be considered a student with H2A [Distinction- class A] or whatever you categorise me. Sharif University of Technology and Shiraz University both had received medical certificate from me, being unwell during the assessment period of events I wrote in this document.

With special consideration my grades in B.Sc. and M.Sc. can be upgraded to the following values:

B.Sc. G.P.A. = 75%, degree was done over 5.5 years full time + 1.5 years full time at research in industry with a thesis written and a software developed.

B.Sc. Project: 75% research was done at industry for 1.5 years full time. This grade is part of the grade transcript for my B.Sc.

M.Sc. G.P.A. = 76. % For 3.5 Years full time course including 2 years course work and 1.5 years thesis by research. This thesis was defended in a seminar room in front of many students, two mechanical engineering professors and my M.Sc. supervisor who was an associate professor of mechanical engineering. All assessors had PhD degree. My M.Sc. thesis supervisor was graduated from M.I.T in USA and was the head of Mechanical Engineering department at that time. My thesis grade was 83%. The book of my thesis included 185 pages text, and 2,820 lines of computer program. This M.Sc. thesis book has 304 pages and can be seen on my ewindfly web page: "Afsaneh's Portfolio".

My PhD course took 2.75 years EFTSL to complete over 4.5 years part time/full time/internal/external mode in Perth and in Pannawonica/Leinster - Pilbara. Grading in my PhD results is "Good Standing" for 7 semesters I studied at Murdoch University. Professor Jennings was my PhD supervisor at School of Engineering and Energy [previously called: Physical Sciences and Engineering] he was Head of the school of Applied Physics. Professor Jennings considers me the top 25% of his class. However, I had family commitments for family of 3-5 during the time I was studying with Professor Jennings. Dr Pourabdollah who supervised me during the research work at industry in period of my B.Sc. degree course when I was single with no family responsibility living in my

parents' home, cared by my mum and university canteen, has written in his referee report for Monash University that I was among top 10% of his students. All Dr Pourabdolrahim staff in that research work industry were mechanical engineering students and two drafts men. Some students of Dr Pourabdolrahim were top students of Sharif University of Technology in my class, among those top students of university I was top 10%.

Professor Jennings students were mostly Physics students, it is easier to get high grade in Physics units that it is in unique engineering multidisciplinary research topics for the first time in Australia, such as my projects.