

FSBB Webinar

Questions & Answers

Polytechnic Admission – Eligibility, Application & Course Related

Q1: For ITE students with a GPA of 3.5 or above, is there a guaranteed pathway mapped to a polytechnic diploma? How exactly does the process/mapping work? Will there be a reference for the mapping?

A Higher Nitec graduate with a gross GPA of 3.5 or above will be guaranteed a place in a mapped polytechnic diploma course that has a vacancy. Such students can apply for diploma courses via the Joint Polytechnic Admissions Exercise (JPAE) like other Higher Nitec holders, and the posting via JPAE to the various diploma courses as selected by all applicants will be carried out according to merit based on net GPA scores.

Should any of the applicants with a minimum 3.5 gross GPA be out-competed for all his JPAE course choices, the posting process will offer the applicant a mapped diploma course that has a vacancy. To view the list of mapped courses, please refer to the [JPAA Course Finder website](#); indicate the Higher Nitec course that you are interested in, and the list of all the mapped diploma courses will be shown.

(Note: the DPP scheme will be discontinued with the advent of the SEC exam.)

Q2: For polytechnic admission, are there courses that prefer or require students to have taken Additional Mathematics or Pure Sciences? Or would Elementary Mathematics and Combined Science be sufficient for all courses?

Elementary Mathematics is sufficient as the starting point for any of the diploma courses. Students who have taken Additional Mathematics may find that they have some background knowledge when they take diploma-level Mathematics subjects in Engineering, Life Science or IT diplomas.

For admissions to diploma courses, either Elementary Mathematics or Additional Mathematics can be used to determine eligibility and for posting. For the computation of ELR2B2 aggregate score, if the student has taken both subjects, the better of the two scores will be used as the score of the Relevant Subject, while the other score can be used as one of the Best Subject score, if applicable.

Combined Science is sufficient as the starting point for Engineering and Life Science diploma courses. Students with Pure Biology may find that they have some background knowledge when they take biology-related subjects in Diploma in Medical Biotechnology or similar diploma courses. Likewise, students with Pure Chemistry may find that they have some background knowledge when they take chemistry-related subjects in Chemical Engineering or similar diploma courses.

Q3: If all subjects are taken at G3 except Mathematics at G2, can the student apply for a Health Sciences diploma in polytechnic?

Mathematics at G3 is part of the Minimum Entry Requirements for most polytechnic diploma courses. Students who wish to apply for Health Science diploma must be taking English Language at G3 level, Mathematics at G3 level, one Relevant Subject (Science subject or Food & Nutrition) at G3, one other subject at G3 and one other subject at G2 or G3.

All polytechnics' diploma courses require Mathematics to be taken at G3 level, except for the following courses where the minimum requirement for Mathematics is at G2 level:

- Diploma in Early Childhood Development & Education (at Temasek Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic)
- Diploma in Chinese Studies (at Ngee Ann Polytechnic)
- Diploma in Chinese Media & Communication (at Ngee Ann Polytechnic)
- Diploma in Tamil Studies with Early Education (at Ngee Ann Polytechnic)
- Diploma in Outdoor Education (at Republic Polytechnic)

Q4: If a student takes five G3 subjects and Mathematics at G2, can he/she apply directly to polytechnic through EAE? Or would PFP be the only pathway? Does PFP have a EAE type of pathway?

All polytechnics' diploma courses require Mathematics to be taken at G3 level, except for the following courses where the minimum requirement for Mathematics is at G2 level:

- Diploma in Early Childhood Development & Education (at Temasek Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic)
- Diploma in Chinese Studies (at Ngee Ann Polytechnic)
- Diploma in Chinese Media & Communication (at Ngee Ann Polytechnic)
- Diploma in Tamil Studies with Early Education (at Ngee Ann Polytechnic)
- Diploma in Outdoor Education (at Republic Polytechnic)

A student with Mathematics at G2 and other subjects at G3 will not be eligible to apply for diploma courses other than those listed above, whether via Poly-EAE or other admissions exercises for diploma courses. The main progression pathways to Post-Secondary Education Institutes for such a student will be to PFP or ITE Higher Nitec courses. PFP does not have an aptitude-based admissions exercise like EAE. Applications for PFP clusters/courses is mainly through the Post-Secondary Admissions Exercise (PSE).

Q5: Currently, there are 12 choices under JAE and 12 choices under JIE O, so will there effectively be more choices for the students with the new 2028 Post-Secondary Admissions Exercise (PSE)? Or will it be just 12 choices?

PSE will allow an applicant to select up to 12 choices for the courses that they are eligible for.

Q6: What is the difference between Computer Science and Computer Engineering?

Temasek Polytechnic's Diploma in Computer Engineering equips students with the knowledge and skills in emerging fields such as the Internet of Things (IoT), data analytics, artificial intelligence, augmented and virtual reality and smart manufacturing. Students will gain competency in blending computer science with electrical engineering to design, build, and test physical hardware and embedded systems. On the other hand, a diploma in computer science will focus on software, data, algorithms, and theoretical computation.

Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP)

— Eligibility, Application & Progression

Q7: Is PFP offered by all polytechnics?

Yes, all polytechnics offer PFP. The PFP Sciences cluster and Humanities, Arts, Media & Business (HAMB) cluster are offered by all polytechnics. TP and NYP offer the Design cluster and Engineering & Technology cluster, while the other 3 polytechnics offer the Design, Engineering & Technology cluster. Certain niche PFP courses like Early Childhood Development & Education and Nursing are offered by different polytechnics.

Q8: For students taking two G2 subjects, must the two subjects be Mathematics and English in order to qualify for PFP?

To be eligible for PFP, the students must be taking minimally five G2 subjects, including English Language, Mathematics and a relevant subject. Any number of the five subjects can also be at G3 level. A student who has two G2 subjects and 3 G3 subjects will be eligible for PFP whether the English Language and/or Mathematics are taken at G2 level or at G3 level. This is subject to meeting the Minimum Entry Requirements for PFP, i.e. meeting ELMAB3 gross aggregate score of 12 points and below computed at G2 scores, as well as the minimum grades for the required subjects.

Q9: Are the grades stated in the PFP eligibility criteria based on G2 grades or G3 grades?

These are based on G2 grades. For any subject taken at G3, the score will be converted to the G2 grade using the grade mapping table.

Q10: If a student chooses the PFP Humanities cluster but later wants to pursue a Science-related diploma, is that possible?

PFP students in the Humanities, Arts, Media & Business (HAMB) cluster can only move on to a diploma course within the polytechnic that is in the Humanities, Arts, Media or Business area. No transfer to a Science-related diploma is allowed because the student will not have done the foundational subjects for Science.

Q11: Which diplomas are mapped to each PFP cluster? Is the information published?

The information is available on each polytechnic's website.

For the list of diplomas in Temasek Polytechnic (TP) available for TP's PFP students to move on to according to their PFP cluster, you can check out the information in this webpage: <https://www.tp.edu.sg/schools-and-courses/students/schools/cfs/polytechnic-foundation-programme-pfp.html>

Q12: How long is the PFP? Is it a full one-year programme, or does the student spend only half of the year in PFP before entering Polytechnic Year 1?

PFP is a year-long programme, i.e. over 2 semesters. The programme starts in April for the 1st semester, followed by October for the 2nd semester. It has the same academic year calendar as the diploma courses. Upon completing PFP successfully in early March, the students will move on to the diploma courses the next month in mid-April.

Q13: For a Secondary 2 student who is already interested in PFP, when would he/she be able to apply for PFP?

Applications for PFP clusters/courses is mainly through the Post-Secondary Admissions Exercise (PSE), which is conducted after the students have taken the Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) examination and upon the release of the exam results, i.e. in Jan after the students have taken the SEC examination.

Q14: After completing PFP, is there a separate allocation/posting exercise for PFP graduates versus new Secondary 4 graduates? Or do PFP graduates have to compete based on PSE cut-off points for the course? Is PFP consistent in all polytechnics? Can a student change polytechnic after PFP?

Towards the end of the PFP year, the PFP students will participate in a course posting exercise and be allocated to their course choices based on their PFP results (i.e. Cumulative Grade Point Average score, CGPA, of all PFP subjects taken). Places in the various diploma courses will be planned for PFP students and these are separate from those for PSE, i.e. PFP students do not compete with PSE applicants for the places.

The content coverage of the various PFP subjects is different across the polytechnics and there is no transfer across polytechnics after PFP.

Q15: Can an ITE student apply for PFP if he/she did not obtain a placement through other admission exercise?

PFP is not an available pathway for ITE Higher Nitec holders because such students would have already done related foundational studies. Apart from polytechnic diploma courses, Higher Nitec holders can consider other progression pathways like ITE's Work-Study Diploma, ITE's Technical Diploma courses as well as polytechnics' part-time diploma courses.

English and Mother Tongue & Other Admission Related

Q16: If a student fails English Language, can Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL) help in the application to junior college or polytechnic?

A minimum grade of C6 in English Language is required to be eligible to apply for Junior College courses. Similarly, a minimum grade of C6 in English Language is required for Business and Humanities polytechnic diploma courses, and a minimum grade of D7 in English Language is required for Applied Sciences, Engineering, IT, and Design diploma courses. Higher Mother Tongue Language cannot be used in place of the English Language requirement.

Q17: If a student has four G3 subjects but English is not one of them, can he/she still apply for a polytechnic course?

English Language at G3 is part of the Minimum Entry Requirements for a polytechnic diploma course. The progression pathway to Post-Secondary Education Institutes for a student with English Language at G2 and other subjects at G3 will be to PFP or ITE Higher Nitec courses.

Q18: If a student scores well in most subjects but obtains only a grade of 4 in G2 English, can he/she still apply for a polytechnic course?

A minimum grade of 3 is required for English Language at the G2 level for applications to PFP. Students with a grade of 4 for G2 English Language can consider applying for ITE Higher Nitec courses.

Q19: For JC admission under the new L1R4 system, what happens if a student fails Mother Tongue Language (MTL)?

To be eligible to apply for JC courses, students will need to meet any one of the following: Mother Tongue Language (MTL) or MTL-in-lieu: A1 to D7 at G3 level, 1 to 5 at G2 level, or A to D at G1 level; or A1 to E8 for Higher MTL.

Students who do not meet any of the above MTL requirements can consider applying for polytechnic diploma courses, PFP, or ITE Higher Nitec courses.