

## Understanding Your Grades

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### Grading System

A percentage system for reporting final grades was implemented by the University of Saskatchewan in September, 1986. The university-wide relationship between literal descriptors and percentage scores for undergraduate courses is as follows:

A superior performance with consistent strong evidence of

**90-100**  
**Exceptional**

- a comprehensive, incisive grasp of the subject matter;
- an ability to make insightful critical evaluation of the material given;
- an exceptional capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;
- an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts fluently.

An excellent performance with strong evidence of

**80-90**  
**Excellent**

- a comprehensive grasp of the subject matter;
- an ability to make sound critical evaluation of the material given;
- a very good capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;
- an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts fluently.

A good performance with evidence of

**70-79**  
**Good**

- a substantial knowledge of the subject matter;
- a good understanding of the relevant issues and a good familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- some capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;
- a good ability to organize, to analyze and to examine the subject material in a critical and constructive manner.

A generally satisfactory and intellectually adequate performance with evidence of

**60-69**  
**Satisfactory**

- an acceptable basic grasp of the subject material;
- a fair understanding of the relevant issues;
- a general familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- an ability to develop solutions to moderately difficult problems related to the subject material;
- a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner.

A barely acceptable performance with evidence of

**50-59**  
**Minimal**  
**Pass**

- a familiarity with the subject material;
- some evidence that analytical skills have been developed;
- some understanding of relevant issues;
- some familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- attempts to solve moderately difficult problems related to the subject material and to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner which are only partially successful.

**<50**  
**Failure**

An unacceptable performance

In May 1996, separate literal descriptors were approved for courses in the College of Graduate Studies & Research. See the College of Graduate Studies & Research section of the *Course Catalogue* for these descriptors.

## Grading Alternatives and Comments

In addition, and where approved and relevant, the following alternatives are used:

AEG	Aegrotat Standing
AU	Audit
CR	Completed Requirements
DEF	Deferred Examination Written
DEFG	Deferred Examination Approved
F	Failure
INF	<a href="#">Incomplete Failure</a>
NA	Not Applicable
P	Pass
SPECDEFG	Special Deferred Examination Approved
SPECSPG	Special Supplemental Approved
SPECSUP	Special Supplemental Written
SUPP	Supplemental Written
SUPPG	Supplemental Examination Approved
W	<a href="#">Withdrawal</a>
WAU	Withdrawal from Audit
WF	Withdrawal Failure (no longer used as of 201205)

# Academic Grading Standards

College regulations govern grading, promotion and graduation standards. Students should refer to the appropriate college sections of the [Course Catalogue](#) for specific requirements.

## How a "W" affects you

Withdrawal is a grading alternative which appears permanently on a student's transcript as a W if they have withdrawn from a class after the last day to add or drop classes to avoid financial penalty. The W has no academic standing and does not impact the calculation of a student's Cumulative Weighted Average.

Students who wish to withdraw must do so on or before the withdraw deadline. No withdrawals are allowed after that date and the student will be graded on the completed course work they have submitted for the class. A student who does not write the final exam will be assigned a failing grade along with a grade comment of INF (Incomplete Fail).

## Incomplete Course Work

When a student has not completed the required course work, which includes any assignment or examination including the final examination, by the time of submission of the final grades, they may be granted an extension to permit completion of an assignment, or granted a deferred examination in the case of absence from a final examination. Extensions for the completion of assignments must be approved by the Department Head, or Dean in non-departmentalized Colleges, and may exceed thirty days only in unusual circumstances. The student must apply to the instructor for such an extension and furnish satisfactory reasons for the deficiency. Deferred final examinations are granted as per College policy.

In the interim, the instructor will submit a computed percentile grade for the class which factors in the incomplete coursework as a zero, along with a grade comment of INF (Incomplete Failure) if a failing grade. In the case where the instructor has indicated in the course outline that failure to complete the required coursework will result in failure in the course, and the student has a computed passing percentile grade, a final grade of 49% will be submitted along with a grade comment of INF (Incomplete Failure).

If an extension is granted and the required assignment is submitted within the allotted time, or if a deferred examination is granted and written in the case of absence from the final examination, the instructor will submit a revised computed final percentage grade. The grade change will replace the previous grade and any grade comment of INF (Incomplete Failure) will be removed.

Complete examination regulations are published in the [Academics Courses Policy](#).

## Calculating Your Average

Commonly used weighted average types:

- **Sessional Weighted Average (S.W.A.)** is calculated from courses taken in Fall and/or Winter terms (September to April).
- **Annual Weighted Average** is calculated from all courses taken in a year
- **Cumulative Weighted Average (C.W.A.)** is calculated from all courses taken at the University.

## Calculating Weighted Averages

Weighted averages are calculated by multiplying the grade achieved in each class by the number of credit units in the class. The sum of the individual calculations is then divided by the total number of credit units to produce the weighted average, subject to the [University Council Regulations on Examinations](#). Students should consult with their college for policies on repeating classes and non-numeric grade conversion.

**Example:**

Course	Grade	Credit Units	Weighted Marks
ENG 100.6	73	6	438.00
DRAM 104.6	67	6	402.00
PSY 110.6	68	6	408.00
CHEM 112.3	73	3	219.00
MUS 140.3	71	3	213.00
HIST 151.3	69	3	207.00
GEOG 120.3	74	3	222.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>2109.00</b>

**Weighted Average (2109/30) = 70.30%**

## Former Grading Practices

**Percentage Grades (prior to Sept. 1982)**

Grade	Division	Equivalent
80-100%	1 (I)	A
70-79%	2 (II)	B
60-69%	3 (III)	C
50-59%	4 (IV)	D
0-49%	(Failure)	F

### **Eight Point Grades (Sept. 1982 to Aug. 1986)**

Point	Description	U of S Percentage	Equivalents Guideline
8	Exceptional	90%	
7	Excellent	83%	
6	Very Good	78%	
5	Good	73%	
4	Satisfactory	68%	
3	Adequate	63%	
2	Barely Acceptable	58%	
1	Minimal Pass	53%	
OS	Near Pass	45%	
0	Failure	40%	