

§4.1.4 GRADES AND GRADING STANDARDS

A. Students shall be evaluated under a numeric grading system. The numeric grades and their corresponding letter grade equivalents are shown on the following table:

| | Numeric Grade | Letter Grade Equivalent |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Superior/Excellent | 4.0 | A |
| | 3.9 3.8 3.7 | A- |
| Good/Better Than Average | 3.6 3.5 3.4 3.3 | B+ |
| | 3.2 3.1 3.0 | B |
| | 2.9 2.8 2.7 | B- |
| Average | 2.6 2.5 2.4 2.3 | C+ |
| | 2.2 2.1 2.0 | C |
| | 1.9 1.8 1.7 | C- |
| Unsatisfactory/Minimum Passing | 1.6 1.5 1.4 1.3 | D+ |
| | 1.2 1.1 1.0 | D |
| | 0.9 0.8 0.7 | D- |
| Failing | 0.0 | F |
| Failure to Withdraw | 0.0 | FW |

B. MAXIMUM MEDIAN GRADING STANDARDS

A faculty member shall not assign grades in a course with a median average in excess of the following standards, except as otherwise provided in the “Application of Standards in Special Circumstances.” Faculty members may and are encouraged to assign grades below the maximum median when appropriate in any course.

All courses required to be taken by full-time students in the first year are subject to a 2.8 maximum median, subject to the following mandatory and appropriate grade distribution:

| <u>Grades</u> | <u>Required Range of Grades</u> |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 3.7 – 4.0 | 0 – 15% |
| 0.0 – 1.9 | At least 10% |

For all other courses, the mandatory maximum median grade is 3.0; exam courses with twenty (20) or more students require a cumulative 20% of grades to be a 2.4 or lower and 10% to be a 2.2 or lower.

C. To ensure compliance with these grading standards, and to screen for substantial deviation from the appropriate distribution of grades, all grades shall be submitted to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for approval prior to submission to the Registrar. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall confer with the faculty member when the grades submitted violate the standards, or substantially deviate from the appropriate distribution curve. Any decision to change a professor’s grades in order to comply with the standards shall be made upon recommendation of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

D. A professor shall not change any student’s grade after the course grade sheet has been submitted to the Registrar or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, except for documented mathematical errors or to comply with these grading standards.

E. A student who withdraws from a class without complying with the requirements for withdrawal shall be assigned a grade of “FW,” which counts as a 0.0 in the cumulative grade point average.

F. A student who receives a 0.0 (“F” or “FW”) in any first-year course or in any required upper-class course must enroll in the course in the first subsequent semester in which that course is offered. The 0.0 shall be counted in the cumulative grade point average.

G. A professor may take into account the quality of a student’s class participation in determining the course grade, provided this policy is described in writing in the syllabus and/or clearly announced to students no later than the second class meeting and then confirmed in writing. For the purpose of this provision, the term “class participation” does not include mandatory, ungraded assignments.

H. High Pass/ Pass/ and No Pass grades shall be assigned in only those courses that have been specifically designated by the faculty as non-numeric graded courses. “High Pass” shall be assigned when the student’s performance is equivalent to a numeric grade of 3.7 or higher. “Pass” shall be assigned for a 1.7 to 3.6 numeric grade equivalent performance. “No Pass” shall be assigned for a 1.6 or lower numeric grade equivalent performance. Course credit shall be given for “High Pass” and “Pass” grades, but no numeric equivalent shall be assigned and the grade shall not count in the cumulative grade point average. No course credit shall be given for a “No Pass” grade, and the grade shall count as a 0.0 for purposes of the cumulative grade point average.