

Academic Standards Committee
c/o Professor Dykema

Enclosed is a copy of the proposed modification of the section entitled 'Grading System' in the 1962-62 Catalog, pages 49-50.

This has been worked out and approved by the Honors Committee (formerly the Gould Society Committee).

At the time this was first brought to your Committee, the question of the Audit grade came up. This problem has since been disposed of by the Senate, in enacting a regulation, to appear in the 1963-64 Catalog, which will prohibit changes of registration to Audit after the 6th week of a semester.

Some in the Honors Committee feel that a statement regarding the 'curve' should be retained in the Catalog. It may be possible to include a statement of that sort either in the proposed section on 'Grading System' or in the section (page 45) on 'The Time/Credit Ratio.'

Such a statement might be along the following lines: An average college class, consisting of average, typical college students, enrolled in a college course of average difficulty, will be expected to earn grades which follow the normal statistical distribution if all of the students in the class diligently work to the limit of their capabilities. The normal distribution is:

The Honors Committee is planning to bring this proposal before the University Senate, but it would like your Committee to be sponsor or co-sponsor, if you would. We therefore request that you consider and discuss this proposal.

For the Honors Committee
Irwin Cohen



April 5, 1962

Grading System

The grade for a course completed may be: A, B, C, D, or F.

Teachers are expected to follow accepted professional standards in assigning grades. The grade given to a student for work in a class represents the quality of that student's work and should be assigned only on the basis of the student's mastery of the subject and not on the basis of competition within a given class. Attention is called to the following analysis of grades:

The grade of A represents exceptional work in which the student shows unusual ability and superior attainment as indicated by original and independent work, in addition to a thorough mastery of the subject. }

The grade of B indicates outstanding ability and that the student has consistently mastered all the essentials of the subject, including some insight into the finer points of the subject.

The grade of C indicates that the student has performed satisfactorily and has responded to assignments in a way which shows that he has knowledge and some mastery of the essentials of the subject.

The grade of D indicates that the student has acquired a definite but not necessarily clear knowledge of the essentials of the subject.

The grade of F indicates that the student has not satisfied the requirements of the course.

The grade of E is given to a student who has not completed a course (including the final examination) when grades are submitted because of circumstances beyond his control. If he does not complete it within 60 days thereafter (except as noted below), the grade becomes an F unless circumstances warrant an extension of time. The instructor is notified before such an F is recorded.

If a student has been absent without explanation and it is not known whether he has dropped the course, the grade of E may be given if, in the teacher's judgment, the part of the course missed can be practicably made up and a grade other than F is possible on its completion.

If a student has received an E in a prerequisite course and has been allowed to enter the following course, he should see that the E is removed by the end of the sixth week of the second course. Otherwise, if the E becomes a grade that does not satisfy the prerequisite, he will have to drop the course he has been allowed to enter, and will receive F in it for dropping it later than the sixth week.

The grade of F can result from (1) unsatisfactory achievement; (2) failure to complete a course, as stated above; (3) dropping a course improperly (by unofficial withdrawal); or (4) cheating, or dishonesty of any kind in the course.

Other marks recorded are:

AUD, signifying that the student has attended the class as an auditor.

WP (withdrawal with passing status), representing official withdrawal from a course before the end of the sixth week of a semester, the first week of a five-week summer course, or the second week of a ten-week summer course.

WF means withdrawal with failing status.

(WP and WF are determined and recorded by the Recorder, not by the teacher.)

A progress grade (PR) is given only at the end of the first semester of certain approved hyphenated courses in which one project occupies the major work of both semesters so that no judgment can be made at the end of the first semester. This grade is changed at the end of the second semester. It has no effect on point-average.

Credit is given toward graduation for any course in which the grade earned is D or higher. In general, the grade of D indicates sufficient knowledge to proceed into more advanced courses in the subject, although for certain basic courses in some departments a grade of C may be required to enter more advanced courses.

A student may appeal to the Head of the Department and then to the Committee on Credits and Admissions for reconsideration of any final grade, if he feels that the grade was given without proper regard for some pertinent factor or circumstance.

Teachers may use plus and minus modifications of the grades A, B, C, D, and F; but the recorder does not record such modifications, and they are disregarded in calculating point indexes.

include under
short of (p. 48)
at present
credit is awarded
week of the semester
early approval
will lower (since)

no change to AUD
after 6 wks. 75
change from F to
to 100

~~WF means withdrawal with failing status.~~