

Grading Systems at the University of Notre Dame

Law School grading system: <http://registrar.nd.edu/lawgradingsystems.pdf>

Prior to 1931

The passing grade in all courses is 70 percent. Any student whose work falls below the passing grade in more than one-third of the work for which he is registered in any semester may be placed on probation at the discretion of the faculty of the college in which he is enrolled.

1931 - 1934

The student who fails of a passing grade (70%) in a course can secure credit for that course only by repeating the course and passing in it. There are no conditional examinations in any subject.

1934 - 1935

The passing grade in any undergraduate course is 70%. The qualitative average required for graduation with a degree of bachelor is 77%. The passing grade for a graduate student in any course (even undergraduate) is 75%, and the qualitative average for graduation with an advanced degree is 80%. This regulation in regard to qualitative average for students of the summer session went into effect with the summer session of 1931 and is not retroactive. The average required is for passing grades in courses pursued at the University, taken together in one average. The requirement of the passing grade of 75% for the graduate school, also, began with the session of 1931.

1935 – 1958

The passing grade for undergraduate and law students in any course is 70%; for graduate students, 75%. The qualitative average required of undergraduates for graduation is 77%; a general average of 70% is required for graduation of all students. By qualitative average is meant the average of the student's passing grades; by general average is meant the average of all grades received.

1958-1963

The grade given is a representation of:

6	Exceptionally superior achievement (Equals A+)
5	Consistently superior performance (Equals A)
4	Above average achievement (Equals B)
3	The "upper" average range of achievement (Equals C+)
2	The "lower" average range of achievement (Equals C)
1	The lowest passing grade. Continued work at this inferior level is unsatisfactory. (Equals D)

O	Failure in the course. This value is also assigned to “WF” (Withdrew failing – date), “AX” (Absent from final examination) or “FA” (Failure on account of excessive absences from class), “NR” – (No grade reported by instructor)
W	Withdrew with permission – Date
S	Satisfactory work in non-credit courses.
U	Unsatisfactory work in non-credit courses.
I	Incomplete – reserved for graduate student in graduate courses only.
NR	No Grade Reported – Any adjustments necessary in the average for the inclusion of this grade will be made in the following semester.
V	Auditor

1963-1970

A	4	Superior
B	3	Good
C	2	Satisfactory
D	1	Passing
F	0	Failure in the course. This value is also assigned to “WF” – (Withdrew failing – date), or “FA” – (Absent from final examination), or “FA” – (Failure on account of excessive absences)
W	Withdrew with permission – Date	
S	Satisfactory work (Courses without semester hours of credit or graduate research courses.)	
U	Unsatisfactory work (Courses without semester hours of credit or graduate research courses.)	
I	Incomplete – Reserved for graduate student in graduate courses only.	
NR	No Grade Reported	
V	Auditor	

September 1970 – Summer Session 1988

Letter Grade	Point Value	Legend*
		* Legend put into effect beginning with the 1974-1975 academic year.
A	4	Outstanding
A-	3.5	Excellent
B	3	Very Good
B-	2.5	Good
C	2	Acceptable (lowest passing grade for graduate students)
D	1	Passing (zero point value for graduate students; lowest passing grade for undergraduate students).
F	0	Failure
X	0	Given with the approval of the student’s dean in extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the student. It reverts to “F” if not changed within 30 days after the beginning of the next semester in which the student is enrolled.
I	0	Incomplete (reserved for advanced students in advanced studies courses only). It is a temporary and unacceptable grade indicated a failure to complete work in a course. The course work must be completed and the “I” changed prior to the beginning of the final examination period of the next semester in which the student is enrolled; otherwise, the “I” grade remains on the transcript and is computed as equivalent to an

	"F" in calculating averages.
S	Satisfactory work (courses without semester credit hours, as well as research courses, departmental seminars or colloquia or directed studies; workshops; field education and skill courses).
U	Unsatisfactory work (courses without semester credit hours, as well as research courses, departmental seminars or colloquia or directed studies; workshops; field education and skill courses).
V	Auditor
W	Withdrew with permission. To secure a "W" the undergraduate student must have the authorization of the dean, and the graduate student must have the authorization of the assistant vice president for advanced studies; instruction.
P	Pass in a course taken on a pass-fail basis.
NR	No grade reported.

August 1988 – Present

Letter Grade	Point Value	Description	Explanatory Comments *
			* Explanatory Comments were enacted in 2008-09 academic year
A	4	Truly Exceptional	Work meets or exceeds the highest expectations for the course.
A-	3.667	Outstanding	Superior work in all areas of the course.
B+	3.333	Very Good	Superior work in most areas of the course.
B	3.000	Good	Solid work across the board.
B-	2.667	More than Acceptable	More than acceptable, but falls short of solid work.
C+	2.333	Acceptable: Meets All Basic Standards	Work meets all the basic requirements and standards for the course.
C	2.000	Acceptable: Meets most Basic Standards	Work meets most of the basic requirements and standards in several areas.
C-	1.667	Acceptable: Meets Some Basic Standards	While acceptable, work falls short of meeting basic standards in several areas.
D	1.000	Minimally Passing	Work just over the threshold of acceptability.
F	0	Failure	Unacceptable performance.
X	0		Given with the approval of the student's dean in extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the student. It reverts to "F" if not changed within 30 days after the beginning of the next semester in which the student is enrolled.
I	0	Incomplete	Reserved for advanced student in advanced studies courses only. It is a temporary and unacceptable grade indicating a failure to complete work in a course. The course work must be completed and the "I" changed prior to the beginning of the final examination period of the next semester in which the student is enrolled; otherwise, the "I" grade remains on the transcript and is computed as equivalent to an "F" in calculating averages.

These “descriptions” and “explanatory comments” are intended to be sufficiently general to apply across the University, but obviously have to be “applied” in manners specific to each department.

Letter Grade	Grades assigned by the registrar; i.e., not to be given by the faculty
W	Discontinued with permission. To secure a “W” the student must have the authorization of the dean.
NR	Not reported. Final grade(s) not reported by the instructor because of extenuating circumstances.
F*	No final grade reported for an individual student.

Letter Grade	Grades that may be given but are not included in the computation of the average
P	Pass in a course taken on a Pass-Fail basis. Each junior or senior undergraduate may file with the student’s dean during the first seven class days of the semester the decision to take one elective course, outside the student’s major department and not required by the student’s program, per semester on a Pass-Fail basis. Such a filing is irrevocable and will result in conversion by the registrar of the instructor’s final grade report into an entry of P (“pass”) or F (“fail”) on the student’s record. The instructor will not be informed that the student has elected the pass-fail grading option. The registrar will interpret the final grades of “A” through “D” as “pass,” which is not computed into the grade point average. If a final grade of “F” is issued, it will be computed into the student’s grade point average.
S	Satisfactory work (courses without semester credit hours, as well as research courses, departmental seminars or colloquia or directed studies, workshops; field education and skill courses).
U	Unsatisfactory work (courses without semester credit hours, as well as research courses, departmental seminars or colloquia or directed studies; workshops; field education and skill courses).
V	Auditor (graduate-level students only).

If, with the approval of the student’s dean, an “X” grade is given in the student’s graduating semester, it will revert to “F” if not changed within 30 days from the date of graduation.