

Cornell University
Office of the University Registrar
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EXPLANATION OF GRADING SYSTEM

General Information

One semester hour of credit is one lecture or recitation each week for a period of a fifteen-week term (semester). In all courses, two and one-half hours of laboratory work, and in the technical courses, three hours of drawing or shop work, are regarded as the equivalent of one recitation or lecture. Two semesters constitute the normal academic year.

Posting of the Dean's List notations began with Fall term 1971. Dean's list awards are posted for the following units: Agriculture & Life Sciences; Architecture, Art & Planning; Arts & Sciences; Engineering; Hotel; Human Ecology; Industrial and Labor Relations; and Unclassified Division.

Majors are not recorded on a student's transcript prior to 1981.

Before July 1, 1933

A, B, C, D, OR 60-100.....	a Pass
E, or 50-59 (prior to Jan. 1922, 0 – 40.....)	a Failure
F, or 0 – 49 (prior to June 1922, 0 – 40.....)	a Failure

Other Symbols Before July 1, 1933

AD – Advanced standing credit	P – Pass
F or S before a grade – first or second term	S – Satisfactory
F – Failure	SS – Summer Sessions
GL – Course taken at graduate level	U – Unsatisfactory
NE or ATT – attended without examination	W – Withdrawal without official cancellation
C.D.O. – Registration for two weeks to take examination for graduate degree	Z – Withdrawal with official cancellation

Between July 1, 1933 and September 1, 1965

Between the above dates, all undergraduate grades were on a numerical scale: 60 – 100, a pass; 40 – 59, a failure (instructors decides whether this grade entitles the student to make up the work, or whether it may serve to meet prerequisites of advanced courses); 0 – 39, a failure.

Circle around term hours represents make up.

Circled "+" sign indicates passing mark at time of leaving to enter armed forces; full credit for the term.

Circled "-" sign indicates non-passing mark; no credit for the term

Beginning September 1, 1965

Grades are on a letter scale: A+ through D-, pass; F, failure. A grade of S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) may be used in a limited number of cases in which no greater precision in grading is required. Grades of S or U are not assigned numerical value and thus are not averaged in with other grades in computing grade point averages.

For the purpose of computing term, year or cumulative averages, each letter grade is assigned a quality point value as follows:

A+ = 4.3	B+ = 3.3	C+ = 2.3	D+ = 1.3	
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	F = 0
A- = 3.7	B- = 2.7	C- = 1.7	D- = 0.7	

These letter grade values are combined with course credit hours to produce an average. Term and cumulative averages are not included on the transcripts except for Law School students.

Class rank is not computed in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Beginning September 1, 1965 (continued)

There are records of student whose grades have been partially on a "1 to 100" numerical scale (before September 1965) and partially on the letter grade system (beginning September 1965). For all such students a cumulative average under the numerical grade system existed, and that cumulative average was converted to a cumulative quality point average in such a way that rank order of every student at the time of the change-over was not distributed. Letter grades earned after the change-over are converted to quality point values and merged with the converted quality points accumulated prior to the change-over period.

Symbols used beginning September 1, 1965

- V -- Visitor – audit; no numerical credit given for course. Effective spring term 1970 audited courses will not appear on the records of students enrolled in graduate or undergraduate divisions of the University.
- Inc -- Incomplete – course not completed for reasons acceptable to instructor. Completion is indicated by a second entry with the credit hour circled. Make-up (removal of incomplete) reported in succeeding term. Circle around hours represents make-up.
- F -- Failing; did not complete course satisfactorily, to be so recorded by Registrar and in all cases non-attendance where official notice of cancellation is not filed with the Registrar.
- CNC -- Course cancelled after the ninth week of the term.
- GL -- Course taken at graduate level by Summer Session and Extramural students only.
- * -- Preceding credit hours indicates temporary credit. Total credit earned with final grade for course appears in the term following.

Symbol Changes – beginning September 1, 1972

- S/U -- "S" means C- or above; "U" means D+, D, D- or failure; "S" or "U" followed by "X" indicates that a course is graded exclusively on "S" or "U" basis.
- CNC -- Symbol has been eliminated. A course which is cancelled does not appear on the permanent record.
- R -- Represents year length course not graded until the end of the second term.
- NA -- Not attending.

Symbol Changes – Beginning Fall Term 1980

- NA -- Symbol has been eliminated.

Cornell University is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.