

Grading guidelines
Lundquist College of Business
University of Oregon
November 2017

Several years ago the Academic (Executive) Council became concerned with the variance of grading standards within the Lundquist College and with some evidence of grade inflation. Consequently, the Council developed grading guidelines. These standards provide guidance to instructors to ensure fairness across our courses as well as providing students with a clear understanding of academic standards in the Lundquist College. Our efforts have been successful to the extent that the Lundquist College is seen across campus as a success story in controlling grade inflation, and UO administrators and faculty have used the College policy as a positive example. The revision of the grading guidelines in the table below is not a change in the standards. It is merely a simplification of the 7 categories of classes to 4.

Philosophy

One of the most important roles students and society expect of teachers and educational institutions is the evaluation of student learning and achievement. It is incumbent on instructors in higher education to distinguish passing from failing and excellence from mediocrity. If we fail to make these useful and important distinctions, our contribution and value will be debased. Consequently, it is important for the Lundquist College to adhere to grading policies and to articulate expectations.

Implementation

The table below lists the guidelines for undergraduate and masters' courses. The guidelines recognize the variation in student ability and effort and are sufficiently broad to accommodate variation in performance. Grade distributions for all courses are now part of the information collected in Faculty Activity Reports. Thus, deans, department heads, and program directors monitor grades awarded relative to these guidelines, and follow-up on significant exceptions.

Average Grade Point Ranges by Type of Classes

Class Level	Average Grade Point
Undergraduate Pre-Business Classes (BA 101, ACTG 211 & 213)	2.3 - 2.8
Other Undergraduate Classes (Major, Minor, Elective)	2.6 - 3.2
Undergraduate Honors Classes (with H designation)	3.2 - 3.5
All Masters Classes	3.1 - 3.4