Rule 90, Grades

Revised 3-3-2015

90. GRADES AND GRADE POINTS.

Washington State University uses letter grades and the four (4) point maximum grading scale. The grade A is the highest possible grade, and grades below D are considered failing. Plus (+) or minus (-) symbols are used to indicate grades that fall above or below the letter grades, but grades of A+ and D- are not used. For purposes of calculating grade points and averages, the plus (+) is equal to .3 and minus (-) equals .7 (e.g., a grade B+ is equivalent to 3.3 and A- is 3.7). A student’s work is normally rated in accordance with the following definitions:

90a. **A**. Student work demonstrates consistently excellent scholastic performance; thorough comprehension; ability to correlate the material with other ideas, to communicate and to deal effectively with course concepts and new material; reliability in attendance and attention to assignments.

90b. **B**. Student work demonstrates superior scholastic performance overall, reliability in attendance, and attention to assignments; may demonstrate excellence but be less consistent than the work of an A student.

90c. **C**. Student work demonstrates satisfactory performance overall, as well as reliability in attendance, and attention to assignments.

90d. **D**. Student work demonstrates minimal, barely passing performance overall; limited knowledge of subject matter.

90e. **F**. Student work demonstrates unsatisfactory performance and comprehension or unfulfilled requirements. The grade is failing.

90f. **S**. (Satisfactory.)  Grade given upon satisfactory completion of courses numbered 499, 600, 700, 702, 800, special examinations (Rule 15) and other courses duly authorized for S, F grading by the Faculty Senate.  (Courses approved for S, F grading are footnoted in the Schedules of Classes.)  Courses approved for S, F grading may also be graded S at midsemester indicating satisfactory progress.  
 A, S, or F grades only are used to report physical education activity grades.  
 S, M (marginally satisfactory), or F grades only are used to report grades for designated courses within the College of Veterinary Medicine.    
 H (honors), S, or F grades only are used to report grades for designated courses within the College of Pharmacy.

90g. **P**. (Passing.) A satisfactory grade for a course taken under the pass, fail Grading Option. Instructors will turn in regular letter grades for all students enrolled in courses under the pass, fail option but grades will appear on the student’s permanent record as P (Passing) or F (Failure).

90h. **I**. (Incomplete.) An incomplete is the term used to indicate that a grade has been deferred. It is for students who for reasons beyond their control are unable to complete their work on time. All outstanding incomplete work (including grades of I, X, and blank/no grade) must be completed and posted to the official transcript prior to the conferral of the degree. It is strongly recommended that students who are granted an Incomplete limit their total number of credits to 18 credits (including credits for the Incomplete course and any new courses) during the semester when they are finishing an Incomplete.  Students who receive an I grade have up to the end of the ensuing year to complete the course, unless a shorter interval is specified by the instructor. If the incomplete is not made up during the specified time or the student repeats the course, the I is changed to an F. (See Rule 34.) Faculty are required to submit an Incomplete Grade Report (IGR) to the departmental office with every I given. The IGR must specify conditions and requirements for completing the incomplete, as well as any time limitations less than one year.

90i. **W**. This is the term to be used if the student has filed, in the Registrar’s Office, official notice of a withdrawal from the course prior to the end of the ninth week, or withdrew passing in accordance with Rule 68, or withdrew from the university in accordance with Rule 70.

90j. **X**. Denotes continuing progress toward completion of special problems, research, thesis, doctoral dissertation (i.e., 499, 600, 700, 702, 800), or flexible enrollment courses; X grades are converted to S or to a letter grade upon satisfactory completion. All outstanding incomplete work (including grades of I, X, and blank/no grade) must be completed and posted to the official transcript prior to the conferral of the degree. An X grade may also be used when no final grade is reported due to instructor’s illness or absence.

90k. **U**. (Unsatisfactory.) Student work demonstrates unsatisfactory performance, failed examination, or unfulfilled requirements in courses numbered 700, 702, and 800.

90l. Z. (Failure due to discontinued attendance without withdrawal.) The Z grade is an internal grade indicating that a student earned a failing grade and discontinued all participation in a course without formally withdrawing from the course. It appears and functions as an F rather than as a Z on the transcript.  An instructor entering a Z grade must enter the last date of attendance for each Z grade submitted.  If the last day of attendance is not available, the date of the last exam or assignment recorded must be submitted instead.