

Plus/Minus Grades Overview

The Grade Scale provides the institutional framework for assigning and communicating grades. The implementation of plus/minus grades modifies the existing ASU grade scale. Faculty assign grades that reflect academic achievement. Final grades assigned in a particular class may reflect the full range of plus and minus, but are ultimately left to the discretion of the faculty. The following bullets detail the effect of the implementation of plus/minus grades.

THE GRADE SCALE

1. Effective fall 2004, the following plus/minus grade scale will be implemented for the entire university (with the exception of the College of Law, which uses a numeric scale): A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, E.
2. For the purpose of computing the GPA, the grade points assigned to each of the grades are: A+ 4.33, A 4.00, A- 3.67, B+ 3.33, B 3.00, B- 2.67, C+ 2.33, C 2.00, D 1.00, E 0.00.
3. ASU will continue to report grades based on a 4.00 grading scale. The cumulative GPA will include the effect of all grades awarded, including +/- up to a grade point average of 4.00. Semester GPAs will show the effect of all grades awarded, including +/- up to a grade point average of 4.33.

EFFECT ON STUDENT RECORDS

4. Plus and minus grades will not be accepted for semesters/terms before fall 2004.
5. All students will be eligible to receive plus and minus grades beginning fall 2004.
6. Use of the plus and minus will be at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the class section.
7. The posting of Pass-Fail grades will not change.
8. The legend on student transcripts will be changed to reflect the plus/minus grade scale, and a note will identify the effective semester of the implementation.

EFFECT ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS

9. Where a minimum grade is used to define a requirement, such as the grade in a prerequisite course, the numerical equivalent of that grade will be used and not the grade. For example, a grade of "B-/2.67" will not meet the requirement of "B or higher."
10. GPA values used in processes such as probation and graduation will not change.
11. Standards for major requirements or graduation with academic recognition will not change as a result of the plus/minus grade scale implementation.
12. Wording in all of the catalogs, including the General, Graduate, and ASU West catalogs will be reviewed and reworded for clarity as necessary.

EFFECT ON TRANSFER STUDENTS

13. The scale currently used to evaluate transfer work includes values for plus and minus grades to accommodate course work coming from institutions on a plus/minus grade scale. The only change in the scale required for the implementation of plus/minus grades will be in the use of a 4.33 instead of a 4.00 for an A+. This results in the following grade-to-point value equivalencies: A+ = 4.33, A = 4.00, A- = 3.67, B+ = 3.33, B = 3.00, B- = 2.67, C+ = 2.33, C = 2.00, C- = 1.67, D+ = 1.33, D = 1.00, D- = 0.67, E+ = 0.00, E = 0.00.
14. The policy of accepting undergraduate transfer work with a grade of C- (1.67) or higher will not be altered as a result of the plus/minus grade scale implementation. Only resident graduate courses (at the institution where the courses were completed) with a grade of B (3.00) or higher may be transferred.
15. Transfer work evaluated before the implementation of this resolution will not be reevaluated.

For more information on the +/- grades project go to: <http://www.asu.edu/provost/asenate/issues.html>