Historical Grading and Ranking Policy

In this document:
- Historical and Current Grading System Information
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- Historical Ranking Cutoffs for Top 12.5% and 37.5%

Effective for students entering the College of Law in May 2004 and thereafter:

NOTE: In November 2005, the faculty decided to adjust the grading scale and grading curve applicable to the students who entered the College in May 2004 and thereafter. This change included a retroactive adjustment of the grades of students entering in May 2004 or thereafter. Thus, transcripts for those students issued after December 9, 2005 will show correct grades. Earlier transcripts are no longer correct.

The new policy (as of November 17, 2005) is set out below:

Grades will be awarded on a scale of 1.5 to 4.3. No academic credit shall be given for a grade below 1.8 or for a grade of "Fail." A 2.1 average (the lowest "C" average) will be required for retention and graduation. A numerical grade may be translated into a letter grade for purposes of comparison as follows:

A+	4.2-4.3		B+	3.3-3.5		C+	2.4-2.6		D	1.8-2.0
A	3.9-4.1		B	3.0-3.2		C	2.1-2.3		F	1.5-1.7
A-	3.6-3.8		B-	2.7-2.9						

Effective for students entering the College PRIOR to May 2004 and for grades entered through Summer 2005:

As a norm, the highest grade awarded at the College of Law will be 90. A grade as high as 92 may be awarded, however, to reflect an extraordinary performance by a student. Performance will not be deemed sufficiently outstanding to warrant a grade above 90 merely because the performance is substantially better than other performances in the class.

The lowest grade awarded at the College of Law will be 55. No academic credit shall be given for a grade below 60 or for a grade of "fail."

A numerical grade may be translated into a letter grade for purposes of comparison as follows:

$$92 - 85 = A$$
$$84 - 80 = B+$$
$$79 - 75 = B$$
$$74 - 70 = B-$$

69 - 65 = C
64 - 60 = D
59 - 55 = F

Mandatory Grading Curve

See the College of Law Student Handbook for more details.

The faculty has adopted the following grading policy for all courses in the College of Law:

(a) The following grading norms shall be followed in all courses in the College of Law, except as otherwise provided below. The median grade in a class shall be 3.3, with the following distribution:

4.2-4.3 [A+] 0 percent to 5 percent, with a norm of 2.5 percent
3.9-4.1 [A] 5 percent to 10 percent, with a norm of 7.5 percent
3.6-3.8 [A-] 10 percent to 20 percent, with a norm of 15 percent
3.3-3.5 [B+] 20 percent to 30 percent, with a norm of 25 percent
3.0-3.2 [B] 20 percent to 30 percent, with a norm of 25 percent
2.7-2.9 [B-] 10 percent to 20 percent, with a norm of 15 percent
2.4-2.6 [C+] 5 percent to 10 percent, with a norm of 7.5 percent
2.3 and under: [C, D, F] 0 percent to 5 percent, with a norm of 2.5 percent

(b) When awarding grades at the extremes of the scale (i.e. "A+" grades or "D/F" grades), faculty members must exercise their own judgment concerning what performances are outstanding (A+) or seriously deficient (D, F). To the extent a faculty member's grades at the extremes are below the distributional norms, the distribution of grades at adjacent grade levels can be adjusted to achieve the overall distributional norms of 25% of grades at the A+/A/A- level and 25% of grades at "B-" or below.

(c) For upper-level courses with fewer than 30 students in which the final grade is based primarily on a final examination, an alternative curve is mandatory. The median grade in such courses shall be between 3.2 and 3.4, with the following distribution:
3.6-4.3 A+/A/A- 15-35%
3.3-3.5 B+ 20-30%
3.0-3.2 B 20-30%
2.9 and below B-/C+/C/D/F 15-35%

(d) The curve is not applicable in upper-level seminars and other upper-level classes in which a student's grade is based primarily on the student's performance on graded skills oriented tasks (including writing) other than a final examination.

(e) The median grade in the LAWR course shall be between 3.2 and 3.4, with the following mandatory distribution:
3.6-4.3 A+/A/A- 15-35%
3.3-3.5 B+ 20-30%
3.0-3.2 B 20-30%
2.9 and below B-/C+/C/D/F 15-35%

(f) There shall be no deviations from this policy without showing good cause to the Dean of the College of Law.

LLM and MSL Students: Master of Laws (LLM) and Master of Studies in Law (MSL) students are in classes with full-time law students seeking a JD degree. Most law school classes are graded on the mandatory curve described above, and the LLM and MSL students are graded on the curve along with the students seeking a JD degree.

Class Ranking

Only JD students are ranked. Students are not ranked until they complete their first year of study. Thereafter, rankings are done at the end of every semester, once all grades are reported. The following system of ranking students by their grade point averages shall be in effect:

(a) The top ten percent in each class may be informed of their exact rank.

(b) The grade point averages at the 12.5 percentile and 37.5 percentile will be posted; and

(c) The above will constitute the entire ranking system.

Final class standing will be set in September and will include students who completed all graduation requirements in the previous August, May, and December. For purposes of ranking underclass students, the same system shall be used based upon the expected date of graduation.

The cutoff grade point averages at 12.5% and 37.5% for past years is as follows:

	First Year		Second Year		Third Year	
	12.5%	*37.5%*	*12.5%*	*37.5%*	*12.5%*	*37.5%*
Fall 2006			3.70	3.43	3.70	3.41
Spring 2007	3.68	3.41	3.70	3.43	3.71	3.42
Sum 2007	3.68	3.42	3.70	3.43	3.71	3.43
Fall 2007			3.67	3.41	3.71	3.44
Spring 2008	3.69	3.44	3.69	3.41	3.72	3.48
Fall 2008			3.68	3.43	3.70	3.42
Spring 2009	3.65	3.43	3.66	3.44	3.72	3.45
Fall 2009			3.66	3.44	3.67	3.47
Spring 2010	3.70	3.40	3.68	3.43	3.69	3.48
Fall 2010			3.68	3.42	3.69	3.45
Spring 2011	3.68	3.43	3.68	3.46	3.70	3.48
Fall 2011			3.70	3.42	3.72	3.48
Spring 2012	3.72	3.40	3.74	3.44	3.74	3.49
Fall 2012			3.74	3.41	3.74	3.47
Spring 2013	3.67	3.43	3.74	3.43	3.74	3.51
Fall 2013			3.66	3.45	3.77	3.47
Spring 2014	3.70	3.44	3.66	3.46	3.77	3.51
Fall 2014			3.69	3.48	3.67	3.49
Spring 2015	3.76	3.47	3.69	3.49	3.70	3.50
Fall 2015			3.74	3.48	3.71	3.51
Spring 2016	3.77	3.43	3.77	3.48	3.70	3.54
Fall 2016			3.75	3.42	3.80	3.54
Spring 2017	3.71	3.46	3.75	3.45	3.81	3.54
Fall 2017			3.69	3.44	3.76	3.49
Spring 2018	3.77	3.51	3.70	3.47	3.76	3.52
Fall 2018			3.78	3.51	3.71	3.50
Spring 2019	3.70	3.46	3.79	3.53	3.75	3.54
Fall 2019			3.68	3.46	3.78	3.55

Spring 2020	3.77	3.44	3.68	3.47	3.79	3.55
Fall 2020			3.77	3.48	3.70	3.51
Spring 2021	3.72	3.47	3.78	3.53	3.72	3.53
Fall 2021			3.73	3.43	3.80	3.55
Spring 2022	3.75	3.47	3.75	3.48	3.80	3.57
Fall 2022			3.75	3.48	3.76	3.52
Spring 2023	3.73	3.50	3.76	3.51	3.78	3.53
Fall 2023			3.76	3.51	3.79	3.53
Spring 2024	3.66	3.48	3.78	3.53	3.79	3.54
Fall 2024			3.69	3.48	3.79	3.55
Spring 2025	3.74	3.46	3.75	3.54	3.82	3.59