

## York University Senate

### Memorandum

To: Associate Deans Teaching & Learning

From: Martin Bunch, Chair, Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee

Date: April 19, 2022

Subject: **Deferral of the Implementation of the New Grading Schemes: Senate *Policy on York University Grading Schemes* and Faculty-level Implementation Activities**

---

I am writing on behalf of the Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) to provide information on the status of implementation activities pertaining to the new *Senate Policy on York University Grading Schemes* that was approved by Senate in Fall 2020. At that time, the implementation date for the new policy was targeted for Fall 2023. This implementation deadline is now being revisited with a recommended deferral timeframe of at least one year.

**The revised timeline notwithstanding, Faculties are encouraged to continue with implementation activities pertaining the new grading scheme. ASCP requests that Faculties ensure that conversions for both the existing 9.0 scale and the new 4.0 scales are included in all curriculum proposals that are submitted to ASCP going forward.** To assist with that process, ASCP is providing a Conversion Scales document with exemplars which is appended to this communication.

The Office of the University Registrar (OUR) and the Office of University Information Technology (UIT) have been working since the approval of the new grading schemes to move the technological solution forward. In Fall 2021 it became evident that the scope of the project was far more complex than initially

anticipated. In addition, there were a series of competing institutional projects, dependent on common institutional resources putting the implementation timeline for the grading scheme project and other projects at risk.

In November 2021, the University's Institutional Portfolio Project Management (IPPM) Committee approved a joint recommendation from OUR and UIT that prioritized the allocation of resources for projects considered mission critical including the Markham Campus Systems project, support for the Student Systems Renewal Project (SSRP), and several crucial Student Information System (SIS) architecture projects. IPPM also approved the deferral of several other projects, including the realigning the grading scheme implementation by at least one year.

ASCP has acknowledged the necessity of this realignment of the timeline for the project which will require an amendment to the new *Senate Policy on York University Grading Schemes* to reflect a new effective date that is yet to be determined. ASCP has agreed that an analysis of other projects and initiatives at the University that may be impacted by the deferral will need to be undertaken before a firm revised effective date can be determined. **ASCP has committed to provide Senate with an updated implementation timeframe by June 2022.**

To-date, 153 program and/or academic regulation changes documents have been received, all largely representing mathematical conversions to the new grading scheme. 78 of these submissions have been approved by ASCP as of March 2022. ASCP will continue to engage with and provide guidance to Faculties and/or programs on implementation activities including following up with units that have not yet submitted regulation changes that were due in April 2021.

Questions and requests to engage with ASCP about the grading scheme implementation and regulation changes may be directed to the Committee Secretary at [kwhite1@yorku.ca](mailto:kwhite1@yorku.ca).

cc: Chairs of Faculty Councils and Curriculum Committees  
Faculty Grading Scheme Contacts  
Academic Advisors  
Lyndon Martin, Vice-Provost Academic  
Darran Fernandez, University Registrar  
Frankie Billingsley, Associate Registrar and Director, Student Records & Scheduling

Lesa Cozzi, Manager, Business Transformation, Records & Registration  
Lara Ubaldi, Director, Student Advising and Academic Services  
Pascal Robichaud, University Secretary  
Kathryn White, Secretary to ASCP

## **Appendices**

- A. Senate *Policy on York University Grading Schemes*
- B. Undergraduate, Graduate and Osgoode JD Grading Scheme Conversion Scales



## University Policy

### Policy on York University Grading Schemes

<b>Topic:</b>	Academic Standards, Grades, Conduct of Examinations
<b>Approval Authority:</b>	Senate
<b>Approval Date:</b>	22 October 2020
<b>Effective Date:</b>	1 September 2023 [to be amended]
<b>Last Revised:</b>	26 November 2020

#### 1. Purpose and Principles

- 1.1. This policy sets out the grading schemes for York University and the pan-University regulations at the undergraduate level for academic standing, progression in Honours programs, and academic sanctions.
- 1.2. A core principle of this policy is the balancing of the maintenance of academic standards and fairness to students by seeking to facilitate students' progression through their degree programs while upholding rigorous academic standing requirements.

#### 2. Scope and Application

- 2.1 This policy applies to all undergraduate students registered in a degree program in every Faculty at York University.
- 2.2 While the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Osgoode Hall Law School grading schemes are set out below, regulations applicable to those Faculties are covered in Faculty regulations.
- 2.3 This Policy is not applicable to the Master of Environmental Studies programs housed within the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, which follow a pass/fail grading scheme.

### 3. Definitions

**Academic Decision:** An undergraduate student’s progression status in their program as determined by their final grades at the end of each academic session (e.g. Eligible to Proceed, Required to Withdraw). Academic decisions appear on students’ grade report.

**Credit/No Credit Course:** A course which is offered on an ungraded basis only, and where the failing grade is to count as zero in the grade point average.

**Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA):** The weighted average based on grades obtained in courses taken over all academic sessions.

**Grade Point Average (GPA):** The weighted average based on grades obtained in courses taken. The GPA is assessed at the end of an academic session and cumulatively to degree completion.

**Pass/Fail Grading Option:** An option whereby undergraduate students may elect to take a graded course on an ungraded basis and receive credit for such courses without impacting their GPA.

**Sessional Grade Point Average (SGPA):** The weighted average based on grades obtained in courses taken over a single academic session.

**Session:** A prescribed period of time designated for the delivery of courses. York’s sessions are Fall/Winter and Summer.

**Year of Study:** An undergraduate student’s progress towards a degree is measured in terms of credits passed rather than years of study completed. A common scale for 90- and 120-credit degrees correlates the number of credits earned and the year of study equivalent; a degree-specific scale exists for the Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) degree. The scales are set out below.

#### *University-Wide Undergraduate Scale*

<b>Year Level</b>	<b>Study Level</b>
Year 1	0 to 23 credits
Year 2	24 to 53 credits
Year 3	54 to 83 credits
Year 4	84 credits

## *Bachelor of Engineering Scale*

<b>Year Level</b>	<b>Study Level</b>
Year 1	0 to 35 credits
Year 2	36 to 71 credits
Year 3	72 to 107 credits
Year 4	108 credits

Additional definitions are available in the Pan-University Academic Nomenclature.

## **4. Policy**

### **4.1. Grading Schemes**

- a. Three different grading schemes are in use at York University, as set out below.

#### **Undergraduate Grading Scheme**

Letter Grade	Percent Range	GPA
A+	90-100	4.00
A	85-89	3.90
A-	80-84	3.70
B+	77-79	3.30
B	73-76	3.00
B-	70-72	2.70
C+	67-69	2.30
C	63-66	2.00
C-	60-62	1.70
D+	57-59	1.30
D	53-56	1.00
D-	50-52	0.70
F	0-49	0.00

### Graduate Studies Grading Scheme

Letter Grade	Percent Range
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
F	0-59

### Osgoode Hall Law School JD Grading Scheme

Grade	GPA	Descriptor
A+	4	Excellent
A	3.8	
B+	3.3	Good
B	3	
C+	2.3	Acceptable
C	2	
D+	1.3	Marginal
D	1	
F	0	Fail
AL	0	Allowed

- b. In addition to the schemes above, students may be graded on a Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit basis. The Pass/Fail grading option allows undergraduate students to take a graded course on an ungraded basis, with the grade excluded from GPA calculations. Details are available in the *Pass/Fail Grades Policy*. Credit/No Credit courses are offered on an ungraded basis only and are included in GPA calculations, with a failing grade to count as zero in the GPA.

#### 4.2. Academic Standing

- a. Undergraduate students' study level at the University is determined based on the number of earned credits, as set out in the Year of Study scales in the Definitions section of this Policy.
- b. Students' academic standing is assessed based on courses taken at the University following each Fall/Winter and Summer session, and results in an academic decision as described in the Definitions section.

c. There are five categories of academic standing at the University, as set out below.

- i. **Good Academic Standing (Honours Progression):** This is defined at the University as a cumulative GPA (CGPA) of 2.00 or above. Each academic program also may identify its own definition of Honours progression for that program as long as it meets the minimum University standard.
- ii. **Good Academic Standing:** This is defined at the University as a CGPA of 1.70 or above. Each academic program also may identify its own definition of good academic standing for that program as long as it meets the minimum University standard.
- iii. **Academic Warning:** An academic decision granted to students whose CGPA falls below 1.70. Once students receive this academic decision, they may remain at the University for a reviewing period as described in the Academic Sanctions section.
- iv. **Required Withdrawal for One Year:** An academic decision granted to students who do not meet the conditions of academic warning which requires them to withdraw from the University for a period of one year or three consecutive terms. Once students return to the University, they will be placed on a debarment warning as described in the Academic Sanctions section.
- v. **Debarment for Two Years:** An academic decision granted to students who fail to meet the conditions placed upon them following their return to the University from Required Withdrawal.

#### 4.3. Progression in Honours Programs

- a. The University-wide minimum standards for progression in an Honours degree program are as follows.
  - i. Students' eligibility to proceed in Honours will initially be assessed after they have completed 53 earned credits. After the completion of 53 earned credits:
    1. Students whose CGPA is at or above 2.00 may proceed in Honours in good standing;
    2. Students whose CGPA is between 1.70 and 1.99 may continue in their Honours program on warning for a reviewing period of 30



earned credits and will be reassessed after the completion of 83 earned credits; or

3. Students whose CGPA is below 1.70 will be exited from their Honours program and will be required to transition to a 90-credit degree program, guided by their home Faculty.
- ii. Students' eligibility to proceed in Honours will be assessed for a second time after they have completed 83 earned credits. After the completion of 83 earned credits:
    1. Students whose CGPA is at or above 2.00 may proceed in Honours in good standing; or
    2. Students whose CGPA falls below 2.00 will be exited from their Honours program and will be required to transition to a 90-credit degree program, guided by their home Faculty.
  - iii. In alignment with principles of fairness to students, the eligibility of students admitted with transfer credit to proceed in Honours will not be assessed before they have earned at least 12 credits at York
- b. Some academic programs may wish to set additional requirements beyond the minimum University standard, such as major GPA requirements, course grade requirements, graduation requirements, and Honours progression assessment for students admitted with transfer credit. Any additional requirements must be approved through the appropriate Faculty- and University-level governance channels, including by the Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee and Senate.

#### 4.4. Academic Sanctions

- a. Academic Warning: Students whose CGPA falls below 1.70 after the completion of 18 credits taken at the University will be placed on academic warning with the following conditions.
  - i. Students may continue on academic warning if they achieve a sessional GPA (SGPA) of 2.00 or greater until their CGPA reaches 1.70 or above.
  - ii. Students whose SGPA falls below 2.00 will be required to withdraw for one year as outlined below.

- b. Required withdrawal for one year: Students on Academic Warning whose SGPA falls below 2.00 and CGPA is below 1.70 are required to withdraw from the University for one year (the three consecutive terms) subsequent to the academic decision identifying that the conditions of academic warning have not been satisfied.
  - i. In accordance with the *Registration Eligibility in Summer Courses Policy*, students who have received a required withdrawal decision may enrol in summer courses.
  - ii. If their SGPA at the end of the summer term does not return them to good academic standing (1.70 CGPA), they will be required to withdraw for a period of one year or three consecutive terms subsequent to that summer term.
  - iii. Those students who return to good academic standing (1.70 CGPA) after the summer session will be eligible to continue at the University in the subsequent Fall/Winter term.
- c. Returning to the University after a required withdrawal. Students returning to the University after a required withdrawal will be placed on debarment warning with the following conditions:
  - i. Students whose SGPA is 2.00 or greater may continue on debarment warning until their CGPA reaches 1.70 or above.
  - ii. Students whose SGPA falls below 2.00, will be debarred from the University for a period of two years (six consecutive terms) subsequent to the academic decision identifying that the conditions of debarment warning have not been satisfied and must reapply.
- d. Debarment for two years: Following a debarment, students must reapply to the University to resume their studies.

## **5. Roles and Responsibilities**

- 5.1. It is the responsibility of students to:
  - a. Be proactive in monitoring their academic standing in their program in consultation with academic advising staff as needed.
  - b. Be aware of the University academic standing requirements as well as any additional requirements of their academic program.

- c. Carefully review notifications from the Office of the University Registrar, their Faculty, Department and/or program about their academic standing.
- 5.2. It is the responsibility of the Office of the University Registrar, Faculties, Departments and academic programs to:
- a. Ensure that academic and program regulations are clear.
  - b. Communicate academic decisions to students in a timely manner.

## 6. Review

This policy shall be reviewed every five years.

<b>Legislative history:</b>	Approved by Senate 22 October 2020; revised by Senate 26 November 2020.
<b>Date of next review:</b>	October 2025 [to be amended]
<b>Policies superseded by this policy:</b>	<a href="#">Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties</a> <a href="#">Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing</a> <a href="#">Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing in Bachelor of Engineering (BEng)</a>
<b>Related policies, procedures and guidelines:</b>	<a href="#">Pan-University Academic Nomenclature</a> <a href="#">Registration Eligibility in Summer Courses Policy</a> <a href="#">Pass/Fail Grades Policy</a>

## Appendix

### Undergraduate Grading Scheme Qualitative Descriptors

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Numerical Range (%)</b>	<b>Grade Point</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>
<b>A+</b>	<b>90-100</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Excellent</b> Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques; high degree of skill and/or originality in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.
<b>A</b>	<b>85-89</b>	<b>3.9</b>	
<b>A-</b>	<b>80-84</b>	<b>3.7</b>	
<b>B+</b>	<b>77-79</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>Good</b> Good knowledge of concepts and/or techniques; considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.
<b>B</b>	<b>73-76</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>B-</b>	<b>70-72</b>	<b>2.7</b>	
<b>C+</b>	<b>67-69</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b> Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques; basic competence in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.
<b>C</b>	<b>63-66</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>C-</b>	<b>60-62</b>	<b>1.7</b>	
<b>D+</b>	<b>57-59</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>Marginal</b> Minimal level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques; some ability in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.
<b>D</b>	<b>53-56</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>D-</b>	<b>50-52</b>	<b>0.7</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>0-49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory/Fail</b> Inadequate knowledge of concepts and/or techniques needed to satisfy the learning outcomes of an assignment or course.

## To calculate a 4.00 GPA using grades taken in the 9.00 scale.

- When the new scheme is implemented, the following conversions will be used to convert a 9.00 GPA to a 4.00 GPA using grades taken in the 9.00 scale(s).
- Will be applied systematically to only active students enrolled and registered at the time of implementation and onwards in undergraduate, Schulich graduate, and Osgoode JD programs where a GPA has been historically recorded on the system. Programs which do not have a calculated system GPA will not be impacted.

### 9.00 UNDERGRADUATE SCALE CONVERSION:

<b>9.00 Scheme</b>		<b>Converted 4.00 Scheme</b>
Letter Grade	9.0 GPV	4.0 GPV
A+	9.00	4.00
A	8.00	3.90
B+	7.00	3.30
B	6.00	3.00
C+	5.00	2.30
C	4.00	2.00
D+	3.00	1.30
D	2.00	1.00
E	1.00	0.50
F	0.00	0.00

**9.00 SCHULICH GRADUATE PROGRAMS CONVERSION:**

<b>9.00 Scheme</b>		<b>Converted 4.00 Scheme</b>
Letter Grade	9.0 GPV	4.0 GPV
A+	9.00	4.00
A	8.00	3.90
A-	7.00	3.70
B+	6.00	3.30
B	5.00	3.00
B-	4.00	2.70
C+	3.00	2.30
C	2.00	2.00
C-	1.00	1.70
F	0.00	0.00

**9.00 OSGOODE JD SCALE CONVERSION:**

<b>9.00 Scheme</b>		<b>Converted 4.00 Scheme</b>
Letter Grade	9.0 GPV	4.0 GPV
A+	9.00	4.00
A	8.00	3.80
B+	7.00	3.30
B	6.00	3.00
C+	5.00	2.30
C	4.00	2.00
D+	3.00	1.30
D	2.00	1.00
F	0.00	0.00
AL	0.00	0.00

## Sample Use Cases (UC):

### UC1:

Student takes a few courses before the new scheme is implemented. Once the new scheme is in effect, student continues and enrolls in a few courses.

- Pre-implementation grades that are in 9.00 will be mapped to the 4.00 grades with new GPVs
- Post-implementation grades will have GPVs in 4.00
- New GPAs will be calculated in 4.00 scale because all the grades are now in 4.00 scale

<b>UC1</b>			
<b>FW2021, 9.00 Scale</b>	<b>Grades</b>	<b>9.00 GPV</b>	<b>4.00 GPV</b>
AP HIST 1000 3.00	B	6.00	3.00
AP PHIL 1005 3.00	C+	5.00	2.30
<b>FW20xx, 4.00 Scale</b>			
AP ADMS 1010 3.00	A-	n/a	3.70
<b>OCGPA calculation for FW20xx:</b>			<b>3.00</b>
$(3.00+2.30+3.70)*3/9 = 3.00$			

### UC2:

Student takes a few courses before the new scheme is implemented and receives an 'E' grade in one of the courses. Once the new scheme is in effect, student continues and enrolls a few courses.

- Grades that are in 9.00 will be mapped to the 4.00 grades with new GPVs. 'E' grade will be converted to GPV= 0.5 per recommended formula
- Post-implementation grades will have GPVs in 4.00
- New GPAs will be calculated in 4.00 scale because all the grades are now in 4.00 scale

<b>UC2</b>			
<b>FW2021, 9.00 Scale</b>	<b>Grades</b>	<b>9.00 GPV</b>	<b>4.00 GPV</b>
AP HIST 1000 3.00	B	6.00	3.00
AP PHIL 1005 3.00	E	1.00	0.50
<b>FW20xx, 4.00 Scale</b>			
AP ADMS 1010 3.00	A-	n/a	3.70
<b>OCGPA calculation for FW20xx:</b>			<b>2.40</b>
$(3.00+0.50+3.70)*3/9 = 2.40$			



**UC3 (Course Repeat):**

Student takes a few courses before the new scheme is implemented. After the new scheme is in effect, student continues and enrolls a few courses and one of the courses is a repeated course. Student receives a grade of 'C' in the repeated course.

- Course grade in new 4.00 scale will be included in the GPAs calculations
- The previous attempt for the course will be excluded in the GPAs calculations but will remain on the transcript under 9.00 scale.
- Pre-implementation grades that are in 9.00 will be mapped to the 4.00 grades with new GPVs
- Post-implementation grades will have GPVs in 4.00
- New GPAs will be calculated in 4.00 scale because all the grades are now in 4.00 scale

<b>UC3 (Course Repeat)</b>			
<b>FW2021, 9.00 Scale</b>	<b>Grades</b>	<b>9.00 GPV</b>	<b>4.00 GPV</b>
AP HIST 1000 3.00	B	6.00	3.00
AP PHIL 1005 3.00	D	2.00	Exclude from FW20xx OCGPA
<b>FW20xx, 4.00 Scale</b>			
AP ADMS 1010 3.00	A-	n/a	3.70
AP PHIL 1005 3.00 (Repeat)	C	n/a	2.00
<b>OCGPA calculation for FW20xx:</b>			2.90
$(3.00+3.70+2.00)*3/9=2.90$			