



University Policy

Policy on York University Grading Schemes

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| Topic: | Academic Standards, Grades, Conduct of Examinations |
| Approval Authority: | Senate |
| Approval Date: | 22 October 2020 |
| Effective Date: | TBD |
| Last Revised: | 23 June 2022 |

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

| Year Level | Study Level |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 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

| Year Level | Study Level |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 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 seven categories of academic standing at the University, as set out below.
- i. **Eligible to Proceed:** Students will be Eligible to Proceed in an Honours program between 0 and 53 earned credits or if they fulfill the requirements of Honours progression as set out in 4.3. Students will be Eligible to Proceed in a 90-credit program if they are in Good Academic Standing.
 - ii. **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.
 - iii. **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.
 - iv. **Honours Warning:** Following the first assessment for Honours progression after the completion of earned 53 credits but before the second assessment after the completion of 83 earned credits, students whose CGPA is between 1.70 and 1.99 will be on Honours Warning. Some academic programs may set a different CGPA threshold for Honours Warning.
 - v. **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.
 - vi. **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.
 - vii. **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.

d. Graduation Requirement

- i. 90-credit Graduation Requirement: This is defined at the University as a CGPA of 1.70 or above.
- ii. Honours Graduation Requirement: This is defined at the University as a CGPA of 2.00 or above.
- iii. Students must meet the graduation requirement in order to be eligible to graduate from their program.
- iv. Some academic programs may set a different CGPA for their graduation requirement as long as it meets the minimum University standard.
- v. Students who do not meet their program's minimum graduation requirement will be eligible to continue in their program until such time that they achieve the required CGPA as long as they meet the conditions set out in sections 4.3 and 4.4 and any applicable Faculty rules and regulations.

4.3. Progression in Honours Programs

- a. The University-wide minimum standards for progression in an Honours degree program are as follows.
 - i. Students will be eligible to proceed in an Honours program between 0 and 53 earned credits.
 - ii. 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 Honours warning 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.

- iii. 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.
 - iv. Following the assessment after the completion of 83 earned credits, students will not be assessed again for Honours Progression, but will continue to be assessed for Academic Sanctions as outlined in section 4.4.
 - v. 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.
- c. Students in 90-credit programs are encouraged to meet with an academic advisor in their Faculty regarding possible transitions to an Honours program. Students' eligibility to transition from a 90-credit program to an Honours program will be based on the following considerations:
- 1. Between 0 and 53 credits, students in a 90-credit program may apply to transition to an Honours program subject to the admissions criteria.
 - 2. Students will be eligible to transition from a 90-credit program to an Honours program if:
 - a. Their CGPA is 1.70 or above after the completion of 53 earned credits but before the completion of 83 earned credits, or

- b. Their CGPA is 2.00 or above after the completion of 83 earned credits.

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.

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| Legislative history: | Approved by Senate 22 October 2020; revised by Senate 26 November 2020, 23 June 2022. |
| Date of next review: | October 2025 [to be amended] |
| Policies superseded by this policy: | Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing Progression Requirements to Maintain Honours Standing in Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) |
| Related policies, procedures and guidelines: | Pan-University Academic Nomenclature Registration Eligibility in Summer Courses Policy Pass/Fail Grades Policy |

Appendix

Undergraduate Grading Scheme Qualitative Descriptors

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