

3.12 GRADING

3.12.1 Purpose

This policy establishes a uniform system of grading for State System institutions. To provide for a more effective and efficient system of transfer of students' credits between and among public State System institutions, as well as to assist the institutions in managing academic records more effectively, all institutions shall conform to the definitions of grading terms and the academic forgiveness provision related to repeated courses. Institutions may choose to offer academic reprieve or academic renewal under the guidelines specified in this policy.

3.12.2 Grading Terms

The following types of grading entries with respective definitions will be used for institutional transcript notations:

Grades Used in the Calculation of GPA

Grade	Note	Grade Point Per Hour
A	Excellent	4
B	Good	3
C	Average	2
D	Below Average	1
F	Failure	0

A. Other Symbols

I An incomplete grade may be used at the instructor's discretion to indicate that additional work is necessary to complete a course. It is not a substitute for an "F," and no student may be failing a course at the time an "I" grade is awarded. To receive an "I" grade, the student should have satisfactorily completed a substantial portion of the required course work for the semester. The time limit to satisfy the "I" will be at the discretion of the institution. "I" grades not changed by the instructor to a credit-bearing grade or an "F" within the specified time limit will remain as a permanent "I" and not contribute to the student's GPA.

For students who are members of the active uniformed military service, refer to policy section 3.12.3.B below.

AU Audit status is used for a student who is not interested in obtaining a course grade, but who is enrolled to get course content knowledge. The allowable time to change an enrollment status from audit to credit will be established by each institution but may not exceed the institution's add period and must be consistent with the State Regents' add period, which is defined as the first two weeks of a regular semester/term and the first week of a summer semester/term. Students who change their enrollment status from audit to credit must meet institutional admission/retention standards, as set by the State Regents. The allowable time to change an enrollment status from credit to audit will be established by each institution, but will not exceed the institution's last date for withdrawal from classes. An AU is GPA neutral.

W An automatic withdrawal grade of "W" is issued when a student initiates a withdrawal during the institution's allowable withdrawal period. An institution's withdrawal period for an automatic "W" shall begin after

the tenth day of classes in the regular session and the fifth day of classes in the summer term and shall not exceed 12 weeks of a 16-week semester or, in general, not exceed three-fourths of the duration of any term. (These are maximum limits. The State Regents encourage institutions to establish shorter limits.) For any drop or withdrawal accepted after this deadline, a "W" or "F" will be assigned depending upon the student's standing in the class and the institution's stated withdrawal policy. If an "F" grade is assigned, it is calculated in the student's GPA; the "W" grade is GPA neutral.

AW Administrative Withdrawal may be assigned by the Office of Academic or Student Affairs to indicate that a student has been "involuntarily" withdrawn from class(es) after the institution's drop-and-add period for disciplinary or financial reasons or inadequate attendance. Withdrawals must follow formal institutional procedures. Administrative withdrawals are GPA neutral.

S-U/P-NP An institution may use the grades "S" or "U" and "P" or "NP" for specified courses or may allow students to elect an "S/U" or "P/NP" option under circumstances specified by the institution. The "S" and "P" are grade neutral and indicate minimum course requirements have been met and credit has been earned. The "S" and "P" grades may also be used to indicate credit earned through advanced standing examinations. The grades of "U" and "NP" indicate that a student did not meet minimum requirements in a course designated for "S/U" or "P/NP" grading. While all four grades "S, U, P, N/P" are GPA neutral, they are counted in the total number of attempted hours for retention and the total number of attempted and earned hours for graduation.

P-F An institution may use Pass-Fail as an option for students in specified courses. The Pass grade indicates hours earned but does not contribute to the GPA. The Fail grade is an "F" and is calculated into the GPA.

N An "N" grade may be used by an institution to indicate that the semester grade was not submitted by the instructor by the appropriate deadline. The "N" grade must be replaced by the appropriate letter grade prior to the end of the subsequent semester. The "N" grade is GPA neutral.

X An "X" grade is assigned for graduate thesis or dissertation in progress and is GPA neutral.

3.12.3 Grade Point Averages

The GPA is used to determine a student's eligibility to remain enrolled or graduate from an institution. Activity courses and forgiven course work are not calculated in the GPA. This GPA may be used to determine financial aid eligibility, admission to graduate or professional programs, or for graduation honors.

The CGPA includes grades for all course work, including activity courses and forgiven course work. The use of the CGPA on transcript is optional, but it may be used to financial aid eligibility, admission to graduate or professional programs, or for graduation honors.

Developmental education, audited courses, and courses in which the grades of I, W, AW, S, U, P, NP, N, and X are given are not calculated in the GPA or CGPAs. Institutions may calculate and include on student transcripts additional GPAs such as semester, transfer, institutional, combined, etc.

3.12.4 Academic Forgiveness Provisions

Circumstances may justify a student being able to recover from academic problems in ways which do not forever jeopardize the student's academic standing.

Academic forgiveness may be warranted for currently enrolled undergraduate students in three specific circumstances:

A. Repeated Courses

All State System institutions are required to offer the repeated courses provision.

Undergraduate students are limited to three attempts in the identical course to improve their grade. All attempts shall be recorded on the transcript with the earned grade for each listed in the semester earned. The Explanation of Grades section of the transcript will note that only the highest grade earned is used in the calculation of the GPA. If most recent repeated course was graded as pass-fail, then the pass-fail grade is used and none of the previous letter grades apply. There is no limit to the number of times students can retake a course to achieve a sufficiently high grade to satisfy degree or program requirements.

B. Academic Reprieve

Offering academic reprieve for students is optional for all State System institutions.

Academic reprieve is a provision allowing a student who has experienced extraordinary circumstances to disregard up to two semesters in the calculation of his or her GPA.

A student may request an academic reprieve from State System institutions with academic reprieve policies consistent with these guidelines:

1. Prior to requesting academic reprieve, the student must have earned a

GPA of 2.0 or higher with no grade lower than a “C” in all regularly graded course work (a minimum of 12 hours) excluding activity or performance courses;

2. The request may be for one semester or term of enrollment or two consecutive semesters or terms of enrollments. If the reprieve is awarded, all grades and hours are included during the semester(s) for which a reprieve has been requested. If the student's request is for two consecutive semesters, the institution may choose to reprieve only one semester;
3. The student must petition for consideration of academic reprieve according to institutional policy; and
4. All courses remain on the student's transcript, but are not calculated in the student's GPA. Course work with a passing grade included in a reprieved semester may be used to demonstrate competency in the subject matter. However, the course work may not be used to fulfill credit hour requirements.

C. Academic Renewal

Offering academic renewal for students is optional for all State System institutions.

Academic renewal is a provision allowing a student who has had academic trouble in the past and who has been out of higher education for a number of years to recover without penalty and have a fresh start. Under academic renewal, course work taken prior to a date specified by the institution is not counted in the student's GPA.

A student may request academic renewal from State System institutions with academic renewal policies consistent with these guidelines:

1. At least three years must have elapsed between the last semester being renewed and the renewal request or shorter time period as approved by the institution's Chief Academic Officer;
2. Prior to requesting academic renewal, the student must have earned a GPA of 2.0 or higher with no grade lower than a “C” in all regularly graded course work (a minimum of 12 hours) excluding activity or performance courses;
3. The request will be for all courses completed before the date specified in the request for renewal;
4. The student must petition for consideration of academic renewal according to institutional policy; and
5. All courses remain on the student's transcript, but are not calculated in the student's GPA. Neither the content nor credit hours of renewed course work may be used to fulfill any degree or graduation requirements.

3.12.5 Reporting Academic Standing

A. Retention Standards and Requirements

Each student's transcript will list the student's current GPA and may also include the CGPA and will denote each semester when a student is placed on academic probation or is academically suspended from the institution.

B. Transcription Notations

The student's academic transcript should be a full and accurate reflection of student's academic career. Therefore, in situations that warrant academic forgiveness, the transcript will reflect all courses in which a student was enrolled and in which grades were earned, with the academic forgiveness provisions reflected and how the GPA is calculated. Specifically, for those students who receive academic forgiveness by repeating courses or through academic reprieve or renewal, the transcript will reflect the GPA excluding forgiven courses/semesters. The transcript may also note the CGPA which includes all attempted regularly graded course work.

The Explanation of Grades section of the transcript will note the courses and semester(s) reprieved or renewed. Institutions will include a legend developed by the State Regents and consistent with this policy which defines the grading symbols listed on the student's transcript to the reader.