



**Office of the University Registrar**

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**Policies & Procedures**  
**Uniform Grade Symbols: Glossary and Guidelines**

**Effective Fall 2017**

DATE: March 7, 2017

To: The Provosts of the Colleges  
The College Registrars

FROM: James Murphy, University Dean of Enrollment

RE: Revised CUNY Uniform Grade Symbols: Glossary and Guidelines

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This memorandum is being re-issued to inform you that some grades have been clarified. Attached to this memorandum is the updated CUNY Uniform Grade Symbols and Guidelines document, which was last sent effective Fall 2013.

The Notable revisions to the Uniform Grade Symbols and Guidelines include the clarification of when to use WU, F, and INC grades. Additionally, a section on 'Pass/No Pass' (Credit/No Credit) has been added.

If you have any questions on the uniform grade glossary, please email [OUR@cuny.edu](mailto:OUR@cuny.edu)

Please disseminate to all interested parties on your campus. Thank you.

Cc: Chancellor James Milliken  
Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Vita Rabinowitz  
Chancellor's Cabinet  
University Dean Robert Ptachik  
University Dean David Crook  
University Dean Lucinda Zoe  
University Office of Student Financial Aid  
The Vice Presidents of the Colleges  
The Presidents of the Colleges  
The Dean of the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education  
The Dean of the School of Journalism  
The Dean of the School of Professional Studies The Dean of  
The CUNY Law School

Attachment: Uniform Grading Symbols: Glossary and Guidelines

## UNIFORM GRADING SYMBOLS: GLOSSARY AND GUIDELINES

- I. The following glossary of uniform grading symbols shall be employed according to the interpretation provided below. **Grades are assigned based on the definitions contained herein. Individual units of the University need not employ all symbols but must adhere to the following interpretation for those employed and may not use any symbol that is not included in the glossary. Quality points are to be used to calculate the grade point average (GPA) or index.** A dash "--" indicates that the grade does not carry a numerical value and is not to be included in the GPA. Plus ("+") and minus ("-") grades shall be interpreted as equivalent to "+0.3" and "-0.3", except as noted.

### GLOSSARY

Grade	Explanation	Quality Points
A+	Exceptional	4.00
A	Excellent	4.00
A-		3.70
B+		3.30
B	Good	3.00
B-		2.70
C+		2.30
C	Satisfactory	2.00
C-		1.70
D+		1.30
D	Passing	1.00
D-		0.70
F	Failure/Unsuccessful Completion of Course	0.00
P	Pass	-
CR	Credit Earned	-
S	Satisfactory	-
U	Unsatisfactory	0.00
NRP	No Record of Progress (Exclusive to Dissertation Supervision at the Graduate School Only)	-
H	Honor (Hunter College School of Social Work only)	-
W	Withdrew (Student attended at least one class session)	-
WA	Administrative Withdrawal non-punitive grade assigned to students who had registered for classes at the beginning of the term but did not provide proof of immunization by compliance date. (Student attended at least one class session)	-
WD	Withdrew Drop (Dropped after FA cert date during the program adjustment period. Student attended at least one class session)	-
WF	Withdrew Failing (Student attended at least one class session)	0.00
WN	Never Attended	-

WU	Withdrew Unofficially (Student attended at least one class session)	0.00
NC	No credit granted	-
R	Course must be repeated; minimum level of proficiency not attained. (Restricted to noncredit, remedial, and to developmental courses)	-
INC	Term's work incomplete	-
FIN	F from incomplete – to be used when the INC grade lapses to an F grade	0.00
Z	No grade submitted by the instructor – a temporary grade which is assigned by the registrar pending receipt of the final grade from the instructor	-
PEN	Grade pending	-
Y	Year or longer course of study must continue to completion	-
SP	Satisfactory progress – restricted to thesis and research courses requiring more than one semester for completion	-
AUD	Auditor, Listener	-

The following symbols have been implemented as prefixes to grades in the student system to identify repeated courses including the application of the F grade repeat policy and Board approved variance, as well as to indicate a grade's impact on GPA and credit accumulation. CUNYfirst College have retired the use of these prefixes as they went live in CUNYfirst. **Converted records will continue to display with the legacy prefix designation in CUNYfirst.**

Prefix	Explanation
&	Repeated course which counts in the GPA but does not count in credits completed
*	Course does not count in the GPA and does not count in credits completed
#	Replacement grade, F grade policy, does not count in cumulative GPA
@	Repeat F grade policy, does not count in GPA, does count in credits completed

## Discontinued Grades

The following grades are no longer in use and have been removed from the legend of grade symbols. **Colleges may not use any symbol which is no longer in use and therefore not included in the glossary.**

Values have been defined in this document for purposes of computation on existing transcripts.

Grade	Explanation	Quality Points	Effective Date of Removal
WP	Withdrew passing. (This grade is now redundant. The "W" grade is not considered a failure.)	-	09/1976
K	Condition course completed. (This is not a grade.)	-	09/1976
G	Good. (At LaGuardia Community College only. No longer in use.)	3.00	09/1976
E	Excellent. (At LaGuardia Community College only. No longer in use.)	4.00	09/1976
NF	Failure in a non-academic course. (At York College only. No longer in use.)	0.00	09/1976
J	Failure for non-academic reasons. (No longer applicable.)	0.00	09/1976
X	Non-punitive failure	-	09/1976
H	Honors. (Used only at Richmond College and only for students who began in Spring 1975 or earlier.)	4.00	09/1976
ABS	Absent from the final; make-up exam permitted.	-	09/2008
FAB	F from absent –used when the ABS grade reverts to an F grade.	0.00	09/2008
FPN	F from pending –used when the PEN grade reverts to an F grade.	0.00	09/2008
*	Current course registration/course in progress	-	04/1980

- II. Any student transcript record sent from a unit of the University must include a grade for every course for which a student has been officially registered and not dropped during the program adjustment or refund period. The program adjustment period, formerly referred to as the add-and-drop period, coincides with the official refund and Form A due date. Clerical, computer or professional errors are not to be considered a part of the historical record and should be deleted.
- III. Students who officially withdraw during the program adjustment or refund period will have no grade including “W” print on their official transcript. Students who officially withdraw after the Financial Aid certification date during the program adjustment or refund period will have the administrative grade “WD” or “WN” recorded in the enrollment record of the dropped course. The program adjustment period established by each unit may not exceed the official refund period.
- IV. All courses or credits for which the student is officially registered after the financial aid certification date or program adjustment period, whichever is earlier, shall be considered “attempted credits” for the purposes of financial aid.
- V. A withdrawal after the financial aid certification date or program adjustment period will be assigned the grade of “WD” (Dropped) or “W” (Withdraw) or “WF” (Withdraw Failing) or “WU” (Withdraw Unofficially, Student attended a minimum of one class) or “WN” (never attended class). Students who have begun attending and officially withdraw after the official refund period, but prior to the end of the designated withdrawal period (before two-thirds of the semester has elapsed) will have a grade of “W” (withdrew) recorded. After that period, however, with special permission to withdraw by faculty and/or appropriate college committee, a grade of “W” or “WF” (withdrew-failing) may be recorded.
  - a. A grade of “WD” is assigned to students who officially drop a class after the financial aid certification date and prior to the end of the refund period
  - b. A grade of “W” is assigned to students who officially drop a class after the refund period and prior to the completion of two-thirds of the semester
  - c. A grade of “WN” is to be assigned to students who never attended and did not officially withdraw
  - d. A grade of “WU” is to be assigned to students who attended a minimum of one class, completely stopped attending at any time before final exam week and did not take the final exam
  - e. A grade of “WF” is an official withdrawal initiated by the student or the college indicating that a student was failing the course at the time of withdrawal

- VI. The grade of “W” is awarded only when it is clear that the student has good and sufficient reasons for withdrawing from the courses.
- VII. The “WD”, “W” and “WF” grades are official withdrawals and documentation as to when the withdrawal occurred must be available at the college.
- VIII. The “WF”, “WN” and “WU” grades are not to be used interchangeably. The “WF” and “WU” grades have a zero value in the quality points index, but the “WF” is an official withdrawal initiated either by the student or the college.
- IX. The grade of “INC” lapses to an “FIN” grade, according to a deadline established by the individual units of the University but no later than the last day of the following semester, or its equivalent in calendar time, exclusive of Summer Session. Students who have officially withdrawn from a college and have these grades may be exempted from the limitations.

The grade of “INC” (Incomplete) should be given by the instructor in consultation with the student with the following guidelines:

- a. only when there is a reasonable expectation that a student can successfully complete the requirements of the course no later than the last day of the following semester, or its equivalent in calendar time, exclusive of Summer Session
- b. when a student has been absent from the final exam and a make-up exam is scheduled no later than the last day of the following semester, or its equivalent in calendar time, exclusive of Summer Session
- c. temporary grade awarded when the disposition of the final grade requires further evaluation for reasons other than the Procedures for Imposition of Sanctions related to the Board's Academic Integrity Policy

Transcript comments for INC grades should be added to the student record indicating the nature of the incomplete.

- X. The “PEN” grade is a temporary grade awarded when the disposition of the final grade requires further evaluation and when the absent or incomplete grades are inappropriate. 'PEN' is also used to facilitate the implementation of the Procedures for Imposition of Sanctions whereby colleges must hold a student’s grade in abeyance pending the outcome of the academic review process. The PEN grade will not lapse to FPN; final determination of a grade will depend on final evaluation by the instructor or the outcome of the college’s academic review process.

- XI. The grade of “P” or “NC” may be given as part of a ‘Pass/No Pass’ agreement between a student and instructor. In order to receive this grade, a student needs to continue attending the class, complete all assignments, and take the final exam. If a passing grade is earned (A+ through D-), the student will receive a grade of ‘P’ and credit for the course with no impact on GPA. If a failing grade is earned (F), the student will receive a grade of NC which does not affect the GPA. This option must be requested prior to the last day a student can withdraw and receive a grade of “W” via an agreement with the Office of the Registrar. Students must remain in compliance with Federal and State Satisfactory Academic Progress guidelines. Colleges may place additional restrictions on the use of this option which must be clearly stated in their bulletin and on their website
- XII. A college may choose to offer a First Year Freshman Forgiveness policy. If the student passes the course, they will receive the grade earned which will carry the designated GPA. If the student fails the course, the grade will be administratively converted to NC and have no impact on the GPA. This policy is limited to first year Freshman as defined by the college.
- XIII. The grades of “NC” and “R” may represent non-punitive failures indicating unsatisfactory completion of the course. The “R” grade is restricted to noncredit remedial courses and developmental courses; the “NC” grade is restricted to regular, developmental, and compensatory courses. This grade can also be used by colleges for other administrative actions such as disciplinary dismissals. Neither of these grades is to be counted in the quality points index nor may it be used in lieu of incomplete or withdrew grades.
- XIV. The grade of “CR” is to be used for the awarding of transfer credit or as an alternative to the “P” grade. Both grades have no impact on GPA.
- XV. The grade “Y” denotes that the semester’s work has been completed; however the course is still in progress and a final course evaluation cannot be determined until the entire activity has been concluded
- XVI. For the purpose of satisfying the program pursuit requirements for State financial assistance awards (Section 145-2.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner), the grades of “W”, “WA”, “WD”, “WF”, “WN”, and “WU” shall signify that the course has not been completed. All other grades, with the exception of the “AUD” grade, shall signify that the course has been completed.
- XVII. The grade point average is an index of a student’s scholastic performance at a particular college. All grades that carry a numerical quality point value shall be included in the calculation of the grade point average.
- XVIII. Any notation regarding a student’s probationary status appears only on the nonpublic (or notes) section of the transcript.