

Frequently Asked Questions about Percentage Grades and Comparative Grading at UVic

Background information is available from the [Office of the Vice President Academic and Provost](#).

Starting Summer Session 2014 (term 201405), instructors will submit grades in percentages rather than in letter grades. This change, approved by Senate in May 2013, will move UVic in line with other Canadian post-secondary institutions, and will improve the interpretation of grades at UVic, across Canada and internationally.

- The percentage grade, the corresponding letter grade and [comparative grading information](#) will be displayed on the [student's official and administrative transcripts](#).
- UVic's [9-point scale](#) will remain as the basis for grade point average calculations and assessment of academic standing.

Percentage Grades Questions

[Q. How will courses that I took before UVic's grading scale was a percentage scale \(before May 2014\) appear on my transcript?](#)

[Q. Why did I receive a COM \(or F or N grade\) for my 2014 Summer course when grading is supposed to be in percentage?](#)

[Q. Will my CAPP report show percentage grades?](#)

[Q. The course I want to take has a prerequisite of a B+ in Math 100. What percentage grade do I need in order to take the course?](#)

[Q. How is my GPA calculated now that grades are recorded as percentages?](#)

Comparative Grading Questions

[Q. How is comparative grading calculated?](#)

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Q. How will courses that I took before UVic's grading scale was a percentage scale (before May 2014) appear on my transcript?

Courses taken before May 2014 will appear as letter grades on the transcript and will not show comparative grading.

Second Term: Jan - Apr 2014		Courses taken before May 2014							
SCIENCE B.SC.		MATHEMATICS (UNDECLARED)							
Course	Section	Description		Unit Value	Grade/ Status	Grade Point	Awarded Units	Note/Drop Date	Comparative Mean / Size
CSC	115	A01	Fundamental Programing:II	1.50	A-	7	1.50		
CSC	115	B08	Fundamental Programing:II	0.00					
MATH	122	A02	Logic and Foundations	1.50	B-	4	1.50		

Credit in 6.00 Units

Sessional GPA = 6.00 (26Apr2013)

In Good Academic Standing (26Apr2013)

WINTER 2014-2015		Courses taken May 2014 and onwards							
First Term: Sep - Dec 2014		SCIENCE B.SC.							
SCIENCE B.SC.		MATHEMATICS (UNDECLARED)							
Course	Section	Description		Unit Value	Grade/ Status	Grade Point	Awarded Units	Note/Drop Date	Comparative Mean / Size
CSC	225	A01	Algorithms+Data Struct:I	1.50	81% A-	7	1.50		73% 65
CSC	225	B01	Algorithms+Data Struct:I	0.00					
MATH	101	A01	Calculus:II	1.50	87% A	8	1.50		74% 110
MATH	101	T04	Calculus:II	0.00					
MATH	211	A02	Matrix Algebra: I	1.50	47% F	0	0.00		77% 56

Q. Why did I receive a COM (or F or N grade) for my 2014 Summer course when grading is supposed to be in percentage?

Courses that are not graded using the standard percentage grade system may still include the grades of F or N (e.g. COM, N or F)

See the [UVic calendar](#) course descriptions for alternative grading used for evaluation and an explanation of grading abbreviations. Review your course syllabus for details on how your instructor is grading the course.

Q. Will my CAPP report show percentage grades?

No. CAPP reports continue to display the letter grade equivalent of the percentage grades recorded.

Q. The course I want to take has a prerequisite of a B+ in Math 100. What percentage grade do I need in order to take the course?

The percentage scale translates to a grade point and letter grade system. For up-to-date grading scales please see the following links:

[Undergraduate grading scale](#)

[Graduate grading scale](#)

[Law grading scale](#)

2014-2015 Academic Calendar

Undergraduate Grading Scale			
Passing Grades	Grade Point Value	Percentage *	Description
A+	9	90 – 100	An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
A	8	85 – 89	
A-	7	80 – 84	
B+	6	77 – 79	A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.
B	5	73 – 76	
B-	4	70 – 72	

You can see your percentage grades and the equivalent letter grades on your [administrative transcript](#).

Q. How is my GPA calculated now that grades are recorded as percentages?

The percentage scale translates to a 9 point system, which is the sole basis for calculation of GPAs (grade point averages), and academic standing. There are several types of GPAs, and details on calculating each type are available on the [Office of the Registrar's website](#). Here are links to the 3 different grading scales at UVic.

[Undergraduate grading scale](#)

[Graduate grading scale](#)

[Law grading scale](#)

Q. How is comparative grading calculated?

Comparative grading refers to the average (mean) for the class and the number of grades used in the calculation (size). The mean and size are displayed for percentage grades only, and when the class size is six or more. In addition, Law courses will not display comparative grading information. [Read more detailed information in the comparative grading FAQs](#).

N/A is displayed if comparative grading is not available. N/A may be displayed when:

- the student has a temporary grade,
- the student has not received a grade, or
- fewer than 80% of the grades have been submitted.

If multiple sections of a course are offered, those at the same level, meeting together in the same place, for all or part of the time are combined in the comparative grading calculation.

SUMMER 2014				The percentage grade and corresponding letter grade		Mean: the average (mean) grade for the class Size: the number of grades used in the calculation of the mean	
Course	Section	Description	Unit Value	Grade/ Status	Grade Point	Awarded Units	Note
ANTH	100	A01	Intro to Anth	1.50	92% A+	9	1.50
ANTH	100	T01	Intro to Anth	0.00			
EOS	210	A01	Introductory Geophysics	1.50	75% B	5	1.50
Credit in 3.00 Units						Comparative Mean / Size	
						65%	21
							N/A

Class size is fewer than 6, so comparative grading is not available.

Q. What does the N/A refer to in the comparative grading section of the transcript?

N/A is displayed if comparative grading is not available. This may be due to the class having less than the minimum number of students, the student has a temporary grade, the student has not received a grade, or less than 80% of the grades have been submitted. In addition, Law courses will not display comparative grading information.

Q. What if there are only two students in my course? Will comparative grading be available?

No. Comparative grading information will only appear on the transcript for classes graded with percentage grades that **have 6 or more registered students**. Courses not graded with percentage grades will not show comparative grading information for the section. In addition, Law courses will not display comparative grading information. N/A is displayed if comparative grading is not available.

Q. Why are the mean and size, displayed in the comparative grading section of my transcript, different from the values displayed there yesterday?

Comparative grading is calculated dynamically each time a transcript is produced. Any change(s) to the values used to calculate comparative grading can result in a different mean and/or size being displayed. For example, if one student in the class receives a grade change from their original grade, that will cause the mean to change. Another example is if a student in your class has a temporary grade, it is not included in the calculation of the mean or reflected in the size. When the temporary grade is changed to a final grade, that grade is now included in the calculation of the mean, and the size increases by one. This change in the calculation is reflected in the mean and size values displayed on the transcript.

Do you have questions or concerns about percentage grades and comparative grading?

Feel free to contact staff in the Office of the Registrar:

Undergraduate and Law students – please email records@uvic.ca

Graduate students – please email garo@uvic.ca