

DRAFT - Subject to Consultation and Approval by Law Faculty Council

The Law Faculty relies on the standards set out in the [UVic grading scale](#). This scale provides that A range grades (A- (80-84%), A (85-89%) and A+ (90-100%)) are normally achieved by a minority of students, with most marks in courses falling within the B range (70-79%), a range that indicates good comprehension and full engagement with the course requirements and activities:

“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.”

C range grades (60-69%) indicate adequate comprehension. Students need a C+/65%/3.0 GPA average to obtain standing and continue their studies. Students who fail a course are entitled to write a supplement exam/complete supplemental work if they have a GPA above 2.0 (C average, 60%).

No formal curve permitted

UVic's general academic regulation provides as follows:

A primary purpose of evaluation and grading is to further effective teaching and learning. Any practices which assign a predetermined percentage of students a specific grade, that is, a certain percentage get A, another percentage get B and so on, without regard to individual achievement are prohibited.

Instructors should grade student work in light of the UVic Law Grading Scale and the Faculty's grading norms and practices. The Faculty does not "curve" grades in the formal sense of setting a predetermined percentage of students with a specific grade. The distribution of grades is up to the instructor.

Grading standards practice

Historically, class averages for upper year courses usually come in somewhere between 72-76% (corresponding to grade point averages of between 4.5 and 5.5). Seminar courses with presentation and research components and multiple assignments have tended to have slightly higher averages compared to other courses. Higher than normal grades may be explainable by the size of the class, the quality of the students, and the methods of evaluation, such as in smaller seminar style classes where students have demonstrated sustained engagement in the class by completing projects, presentations, papers and creative assignments. The overall average mark in large group upper year courses is 72-76% (B). Average grades of 77% and above (GPAs at or above 6.0 (B+)) should be viewed as exceptional and must be justified. For first year courses, final grades for tend to be a bit lower (74 to 75% average (B)).

Grading regulation/policy and the role of the Associate Dean, Academic & Student Relations

The Faculty relies on the standards set out in the grading scale (above) and the norms and customs of the Faculty. Faculty Council has delegated its grade approval power to the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations (ADASR).

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Where there is divergence between Faculty norms and the final grades submitted by an instructor, the ADASR will engage in a conversation with the instructor, including about an across the board adjust to their grades (either increasing them or decreasing them).

In the very rare circumstance where the instructor and the ADASR are unable to come to an agreement regarding final grades, the issue will be referred to Closed Faculty Council and the instructor will be asked to justify their course grades to the Closed Faculty Council.