

**University of Mississippi
School of Law
Grading Policy**

Adopted by Faculty 3/11/2010 (Revised 3/9/2012, 11/5/2014, and 5/8/2019)

Grades:

Grades With Grade Point Values:

| | |
|---|-------|
| A+ | = 4.3 |
| (see note on "Award of the A+" under Grade Distribution Policy) | |
| A | = 4.0 |
| A- | = 3.7 |
| B+ | = 3.3 |
| B | = 3.0 |
| B- | = 2.7 |
| C+ | = 2.3 |
| C | = 2.0 |
| C- | = 1.7 |
| D+ | = 1.3 |
| D | = 1.0 |
| D- | = 0.7 |
| F | = 0.0 |

Grades With No Grade Point Value:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Z | = Pass |
| X | = Audit |
| W | = Withdrawn |
| I | = Incomplete |

Grade Point Average:

The Registrar will calculate a student's GPA using the Grade Point Value for each grade multiplied by the credit value of the course and divided by the student's total number of such credits. Grades with no Grade Point Value do not affect GPA. GPA calculated to two decimal places only. Maximum possible GPA = 4.0.

Standards for Honors at Graduation:

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Summa Cum Laude | = 3.80+ |
| Magna Cum Laude | = 3.60+ |
| Cum Laude | = 3.30+ |

Grade Distribution Policy:

The Registrar will distribute the relevant portions of the Grade Distribution Policy to instructors each semester.

For students who matriculate prior to 2019:

Mandatory Grade Distribution for 1L Courses (Revised 3/9/2012):

In order to ensure fairness among the 1L sections and maintain rigor in grading, the following standards apply to the required 1L courses except for Legal Research and Writing (Law 514 & 515):

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| A to A+ | = 15% Maximum |
| B to A- | = 40% Minimum |
| C- to B- | = 25% Minimum |
| F to D+ | = 5% Minimum |

Required GPA for each class = 2.70 to 3.10

The Dean may grant, upon request of an individual faculty member based upon good cause, a waiver these requirements.

For students who matriculate in 2019 and later:

Mandatory Grade Distribution for 1L Courses (Revised 5/9/2019):

In order to ensure fairness among the 1L sections and maintain rigor in grading, the following standards apply to the required 1 L courses, including Legal Research and Writing I and II (Law 514 and 515) but not including Contract Drafting and Negotiation (Law 590):

Target average GPA = 3.1

Mandatory minimum average GPA of 3.05

Mandatory maximum average GPA of 3.15

The following standards apply to Contract Drafting and Negotiation (Law 590):

Target average GPA = 3.3

Mandatory minimum average GPA of 3.25

Mandatory maximum average GPA of 3.35

In addition, the following standards apply to the required 1L courses other than Legal Research and Writing I and II (Law 514 and 515) and Contract Drafting and Negotiation (Law 590):

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| A to A+ | = 15% Maximum |
| B to A- | = 40% Minimum |
| C- to B- | = 20% Minimum |
| F to D+ | = 5% Minimum |

The Dean may grant, upon request of an individual faculty member based upon good cause, a waiver of these requirements.

Grade Distribution for Other Courses:

In order to ensure general fairness and maintain rigor in grading, the following standards apply to all other ABC Graded courses:

Class size of 25+ = GPA = 2.70 to 3.10

Class size of 10 to 24 = GPA = 2.60 to 3.20

Class size of 9 or fewer AND class with grade based on a paper or other assignment(s) with rigor equal to a paper
= GPA at discretion of instructor

Advisory for Resident Faculty:

These standards constitute advisory guidelines for resident faculty (including tenured, tenure-track, visiting, acting, and others with equivalent faculty rank).

Mandatory for Adjunct Faculty:

These standards constitute mandatory grade distribution requirements for adjunct faculty and other instructors. The Dean may grant, upon request of an adjunct or other instructor for good cause, a waiver of these requirements.

Award of the A+ (Revised 11/5/2014)

The A+ recognizes students for extraordinary work. Accordingly, an instructor should not automatically award an A+ even to the student with the highest grade. An instructor may award an A+ only to

1 student if the class size ranges from 1 to 50;

2 students if the class size ranges from 51 to 100;

3 students if the class size ranges from 101 to 150; or

4 students if the class size is 150+.

The Registrar and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will ensure compliance with this strict limit.

Effective Dates:

The new + and - grades and the related changes to the Grade Distribution Policy will go into effect at the beginning of the first semester after this request is approved by Graduate Council and Academic Council and the University notifies the School of Law that the campus record-keeping system will support the relevant changes. The Registrar will inform the students of the new grading policy upon adoption and will give students some guidance regarding the likely effective date.

The new Standards for Honors will go into effect for the 1L class beginning in 2010.