THE NMSU SYSTEM ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

University Grading System

Each course department or instructor establishes the system for assessing student performance in achieving course learning objectives. Students should consult the course syllabus for a description of the grading system used in each course. At the conclusion of each course, instructors are required to report a final grade reflecting the instructor's assessment of each student's performance. Shortly after the end of the term, students can access their grades through the MyNMSU portal. No other grade notification will be issued. The final grade is reported on the student transcript. Instructors may elect whether to use fractional grading (the use of the plus and minus) in assigning final letter grades.

The NMSU system for final grades is expressed in letters, which carry grade points that are used in calculating the cumulative grade-point average, as shown in this table:

Letter Grade	Grade Points per Unit of Credit
A+	4.0
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	2.0
D+, D, D-	1.0
F	0
W- Withdrawal	0
N- Grade not submitted	0
CR- Credit authorized, but not letter grade	0
IP- In progress	0
RR- Progress in undergraduate course	0
PR- Progress in graduate thesis	0
S- Satisfactory work[1]	0
U- Unsatisfactory work	0
I- Incomplete work	0
AU- Audit	0

[1] S grades are grades that are satisfactory to the professor and are normally equivalent to the letter grade of C- or higher.

Any courses for which only CR, S or PR is awarded, but no traditional letter grade is given, will be included in the total number of earned hours but is not computed in the grade-point average. Traditional letter grades are those which are used in the grade point average determination: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D- and F. In computing the overall grade-point-average, the total credits in which grades of A+ through F have been assigned is divided into the total number of grade points earned.

Midterm and Six-Week Early Performance Grades

A Six-Week Early Performance Grade (sometimes referred to as Midterm Grade) for courses numbered 100/1000-299/2999 will be posted and available to students through the MyNMSU portal. The purpose of the early grade posting is to ensure that students have an opportunity to address any performance issues. Students should be mindful that the Six-Week Early Performance Grade reflects a students' performance on only that portion of the total coursework that has been graded at that time. Any student who is doing poorly, or not as well as they would like, should meet with the instructor to discuss how they can improve. Students who have concerns about their progress in multiple courses or who are considering withdrawal from course(s) must meet with their academic advisor.

In courses numbered 300/3000 or higher, the posting of Early Performance Grades is optional and may occur through the online course management system rather than the MyNMSU portal. However, prior to the last day to withdraw from a course, upon request, instructors will provide information to students about their progress in the course.

Retention of Grading Records

Individual assignments and exams that are not returned to students should be retained by the instructor or department through the end of the subsequent regular semester. The records used to compute individual final grades should be retained for two years after the completion of a course. If a final grade is appealed, these records are kept for at least two years after the completion of the appeal. Departments, colleges, or the library may require that records be kept for longer periods.

Minimum Grade Requirement for Undergraduate Students

Undergraduate degrees require a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher for degree completion. Although D+, D, or D- can be considered passing, some departments have higher grade requirements for the courses within their program and/or their program as a whole. Students should check with their departments regarding specific course grading requirements for their particular degree program.

Minimum Grade Requirement for Graduate Students

Graduate degrees require a cumulative graduate G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher. Although B- and C grades (including C+ and C-) earned at NMSU may be counted toward the requirements for a graduate degree in some programs, this grade does not reflect acceptable graduate-level performance and may cause the cumulative G.P.A. to fall below the 3.0 required for graduate students. Some departments have higher grading requirements for courses in their programs. Students should check with their departments regarding specific course grading requirements for their particular degree program.

Courses in which a student earns a D or F grade do not ever satisfy graduate degree requirements; however, these grades will be calculated in determining the students' cumulative grade-point average. To obtain academic credit, students must retake courses in which a grade of D or F was earned.

S/U Grading

S/U grading allows the student to attempt to earn course credit without having a course grade included in their grade point average calculations. Under S/U grading, the instructor assigns an S grade for satisfactory achievement of the course learning objectives (normally equivalent to the letter grade of C- or higher) and a U grade for unsatisfactory performance in the class.

Designated S/U Courses

Each academic college may designate courses in which the grading will be on the basis of S or U for all students enrolled in the courses. Credits in designated S/U courses are not included in the limitations on the number of S/U credits a student may take and are not subject to the student eligibility requirements described below.

Election of the S/U Grading Option - Undergraduate Students

In courses other than those designated as S/U for all students, eligible individual students may elect the S/U Grading Option, subject to the regulations stated below. To be eligible for the S/U (satisfactory/unsatisfactory) Grading Option, undergraduate students must meet the eligibility requirements and obtain the approval of an academic advisor. Eligibility requires the completion of 28 credits at NMSU under traditional grading, with an overall average of 2.5 or better. (Upon approval of the adjusted credit option, students must re-establish eligibility.) Non-degree seeking students may take courses under the S/U option without regard to eligibility requirements. However, these courses may not be subsequently applied toward an undergraduate degree at NMSU.

The S/U option must be elected as part of the course registration and may not be added once the course registration period closes. Other than honors courses and courses officially designed as S/U, the following limitations apply to courses in which the S/U option is elected:

1. No more than 7 credits per semester or 4 credits per summer session.
2. Not to exceed a total of 21 credits towards a degree.
3. Not a required course for the student's major.

Students electing the S/U option should be mindful that upon a change of majors, the new major department may require a traditional grade for a course within that major that was previously completed with an S grade. In such cases, the student may request that the original instructor process a change of grade form to apply a traditional grade, however, if more than 2 years have elapsed or if the instructor is no longer at NMSU, such a change will not be possible and the student may be required to retake the course or obtain a traditional grade through a course challenge.

Election of the S/U Grading Option Election - Graduate Students

With approval from their advisor and department head, graduate students in good academic standing may elect the S/U option, at the time of registration, for courses taken outside the major department, subject to the regulations stated below:

1. No more than a total of 6 credits of elected S/U courses are permitted in the master's degree.
2. Doctoral candidates may take an additional 6 credits under the S/U option after application to candidacy.

I Grade Designation

The letter grade of I (incomplete) is given for passable work that could not be completed due to circumstances beyond the student's control that develop after the last day to withdraw from the course. In no case is an I grade to be used to avoid assigning D, F, U or RR grades for marginal or failing work. Examples of appropriate circumstances include documented illness, documented death or crisis in the student's immediate family, unexpected military deployment and similar circumstances. Other job-related circumstances are generally not appropriate grounds for assigning an I grade. Students requesting an I grade are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence of such circumstances. (In the case of medical records, instructors should review the information provided, note that adequate medical documentation was provided for review, and return the documentation to the student. Under no circumstances should the instructor retain any medical records or indicate the specifics of any medical condition in the academic records.) The refusal to grant an I grade may be appealed in the same manner as any other final grade.

To assign an I grade, the instructor must complete the "I grade Information Form (https://records.nmsu.edu/_files/sro-forms/I%20Grade%20Information%20Form.pdf)" by the deadline for final grade submission in the semester the student was enrolled in the course, and have the form delivered to the associate dean of the course college. The instructor must indicate on the form whether the student will be given the option to complete the remaining coursework and have the I grade changed to the earned letter grade. If so, the instructor should indicate the steps necessary to complete the remaining coursework. The I grade form should either be signed by the student in person or digitally, or the associate dean must send a copy of the document to the student's official permanent address or university email address, as recorded in the University Student Records, with a notation on the form that the student was not available for signature.

The I grade will be permanent in instances where (1) the instructor did not provide an option to complete the coursework, (2) the instructor left NMSU before completion of the coursework and grade change, or (3) the student failed to complete the coursework by the relevant deadline, and the instructor did not indicate that the I grade would be changed to the earned grade upon failure to complete. In such instances, the student will be required to re-enroll in the course to receive credit (in which case the permanent I grade and the subsequently earned letter grade will both appear on the transcript).

The student is entitled to have the I grade removed from the transcript only if, within 12 months or any earlier deadline established by the instructor on the "I Grade Information Form" and before graduation, the student completes the remaining coursework, as specified on the I Grade Form, in a manner satisfactory to the instructor. If the student fails to complete the coursework, the instructor may change the I grade to any appropriate grade (including D, F, or U) only if the instructor stated that this would occur on the "I Grade Information Form." The instructor should assign whatever grade was earned for the entire course.

To change the I grade, the instructor must complete a "Change of Grade Form," obtain the signature of the associate dean for the course, and submit the form to the University Student Records.

RR Grade

The RR grade may be assigned only in undergraduate developmental courses (CCDE, CCDL, CCDM & CCDR) and indicates that the student has made substantial progress toward completing the requirements of the course. It carries neither penalty nor credit, so a student must re-enroll and successfully complete the course in order to earn credit. The grade

of RR may be received only once in any given course, and is a permanent notation on the student's transcript.

W Grade Designation

The W grade is assigned only in courses when the student withdraws or is administratively dis-enrolled from the course after the last day to drop the course. The W grade is permanent.

Effect of Change of Grade

The effect of a change of grade on a student's academic standing (academic warning, probation or suspension) depends on the date the transaction is officially recorded on the student's academic record. If the transaction is recorded before the student begins another semester, the grade change (such as replacing the I grade with an earned grade) is included in the grade-point average calculation to establish the student's academic standing. If the transaction is recorded after the student begins another semester, for the purpose of calculating academic standing, the new grade is included with any other grades earned for the semester in which the grade change is processed.

Repeating Courses for a Change in Grade

Undergraduate: Undergraduate students may repeat courses, for a change in grade, when the original grade earned was a D or F. Once a grade of C- or better is earned, the course will then be substituted in the calculation of the grade-point- average and students will no longer be able to repeat that course for change of grade purposes. Student transcripts will continue to show the grade awarded for each course attempt, but only the higher grade will be included in the GPA calculations.
a. If the student's original grade was a D and the student repeats the course, but receives an F, the second grade will not be substituted for the original. Repeat options apply only to courses that were completed prior to the time a student was awarded a degree.

Graduate: Graduate students may repeat courses for a change in grade, to be updated on the official student transcript, when the original grade earned was a B- or lower. Students with active graduate status (admitted to a graduate program) are eligible to use this policy.
a. A course may only be repeated once (a total of two instances within the active program of study), and the course numbers and subtitles must be identical (e.g. GEOG 598 – Intro to Geography AI).
b. To replace the original grade on the transcript, the repeated course must result in an improvement of the previous grade. The higher grade will replace the lower grade in the calculation of the cumulative GPA and earned credit hours.
c. The original grade will remain on the student's transcript. An "E" will appear next to the course to indicate that the lower grade is removed from GPA calculation.
d. No grade may be replaced after a graduate degree has been awarded.
e. Symbol grades such as CR, PR, S, U, and W are not replaceable since these grades do not affect the overall grade point average.

Grade Point Average

Grade point average (GPA) calculations are based solely on courses taken at NMSU or under an approved National Student Exchange.

Grading in Graduate Research

In grading both master's and doctoral research, thesis and dissertation work in progress, the instructor reports for each enrollment period the grade S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) rather than a traditional letter grade. These assigned grades are permanent notations on the student's transcript. Only those credits graded S (satisfactory) accumulate toward the minimum number of research credits required.

U indicates that the student has stopped work or is doing work of unacceptable quality. After the final examination, and/or when the thesis/dissertation is submitted to the electronic dissertation submission system, the instructor will report the final S or U grade for the research.

The report of an S (satisfactory) grade means that the degree will be certified. A U (unsatisfactory) grade means that the student is doing work of unacceptable quality.

If a student accumulates a total of two U (unsatisfactory) grades in courses numbered either 598, 599, 600, 699 or 700, the student will be placed on Academic Probation I. If three U (unsatisfactory) grades are reported for these courses, the student will be dismissed from the Graduate School.