Credits & Grades

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IB Credit
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The regulations published in the Undergraduate Catalog are a digest of the rules of the institution. Changes may be made in the regulations at any time to promote the best interests of the university and its students. Students are responsible for knowing the published regulations, policies, and standards of the university and of their college or school.

Credits and Grades

The Semester Hour

A semester hour is the unit of credit earned over one semester for the work associated with one class hour per week of lecture or recitation, or two to four hours per week of laboratory.

Class Attendance

It is the responsibility of the instructor to notify classes at the outset of each course of the class attendance requirements. It is the responsibility of the student to comply with the class attendance policy.

Students must attend the first meeting of every course for which they are registered, unless they obtain prior departmental approval. Without such approval, a student who is absent from the first class meeting may be dropped from that class by the dean of the school or college with the responsibility for the course. A student who incurs excessive absences in a given course may receive a grade of F for the course, and, in addition, may be dismissed from the class upon recommendation of the instructor and approval by the student's academic dean. When it appears to an instructor that a student has discontinued a class without officially dropping the course, the instructor will report this fact to the student's academic dean. The university reserves the right to dismiss from the university any student who has been excessively absent from multiple courses.

Class absences may occur when a student represents the university in official competitions or performances (athletic teams, cheerleading, band, chorus, orchestra, debate, theatre, ROTC, etc.). In these cases, academic departments and faculty should exercise fair and consistent standards for resolving questions of missed assignments and tests. Faculty and staff who supervise student teams and organizations are expected to schedule competitions and performances to minimize the number of classes that students will be forced to miss. Names of participating students and the dates of class conflicts should be provided to the students' instructors prior to participation. Students and instructors should resolve potential conflicts regarding class attendance before the semester course withdrawal deadline.

Pass-Fail Grading for Exercise and Leisure Activity Courses

The pass-fail basis is the only grading available for all one-hour (EL) exercise and leisure activity courses.

Grade Symbols

A final grade is the instructor's evaluation of a student's achievement throughout a semester's work in a course. Factors upon which the final grade may be based include attendance, recitation, written and oral quizzes and tests, reports, papers, the final examination, and other class activities. The evaluation is expressed according to the following letter system:

Passing Grades	Failing Grade	Other Marks
A Excellent	F Failure	I Incomplete
B Good		IP In Progress
C Satisfactory		W Withdrawn
D Lowest passing grade		X Audit
P Pass		
Z Credit granted		

Grade Points and GPA

The grade-point average (GPA) is computed by dividing the number of ABCDF-graded hours attempted at The University of Mississippi into the total number of grade points earned at the university. Grade points per credit hour are assigned as follows: A = 4; B = 3; C = 2; D = 1; F = 0. The lowest C average is defined as a GPA of 2.00. Correspondence courses are not included in the GPA calculation.

F Grade

The grade of F is recorded if the student has failed on the combined evaluation of work through the semester, or if the student officially withdraws from the course after the course withdrawal deadline and was failing the course at the time of withdrawal.

P Grade

The grade of P is recorded for a student who earns a passing grade after enrolling in an exercise and leisure activity course on a pass-fail basis. P grades are not used in computing the student's GPA. F grades recorded for pass-fail course work are, however, computed in the GPA as F grades. The P grade is not used in determining whether a student qualifies to graduate with academic honors.

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Z Grade

The Z grade is given to a student who earns a passing grade in certain courses for which the traditional grades of A, B, C, and D are deemed inappropriate. Courses for which the Z grade is authorized are denoted in the catalog listings; ABCD grades are not awarded in these courses. The Z grade is also given for advanced placement credit, for credit by examination as in the College Level Examination Program, for credit earned in some Study Abroad courses, for credit based on Armed Forces experiences, and for credit earned in a course for which a student has appropriately exercised the “Z grade option” described below.

Z grades are not used in computing a student’s GPA; F grades recorded for Z-graded course work are, however, computed in the GPA as F grades. The Z grade is not used in determining whether a student qualifies to graduate with academic honors.

I Mark

The temporary mark of I (incomplete) is given to a student when, for unusual reasons acceptable to the instructor, course requirements cannot be completed before the end of the semester. The instructor must submit an I Mark Assignment Form to the registrar detailing the work to be completed and the deadline for completion. The registrar will convey a copy to the student. COURSE FAILURE OR UNEXPLAINED CLASS ABSENCES MAY NOT BE USED AS REASONS TO ASSIGN AN I MARK. I marks are not computed in determining a student’s GPA. If an I mark for an undergraduate student has not been changed to a regular grade before the course withdrawal deadline (the 25th day of classes) of the next regular semester (excluding summer terms), the I automatically changes to an F and is computed in the GPA. AN I MARK MAY NOT BE REMOVED BY FORMALLY ENROLLING IN THE SAME COURSE IN A SUBSEQUENT SEMESTER AT THIS UNIVERSITY OR ANY OTHER INSTITUTION.

IP Mark

The mark of IP (in progress) may be assigned to the first course in specifically designated course sequences whose nature is such that a regular grade would not be appropriate until the conclusion of the second course. Although a student’s course load reflects registration for the first course, both credit hours and grade points for the work done in both courses are assigned only upon completion of the second course. The IP mark is permanent, but is not used in computing the student’s GPA. Course sequences for which the IP mark is authorized are denoted in the catalog listings.

W Mark

The W mark is recorded if the student obtains authorization to withdraw from a course after the course withdrawal deadline and was not failing the course at the time of withdrawal. The W mark is not computed in determining the GPA.

The Z Grade Option

A current undergraduate student who is classified as a junior or senior may elect to take one course for credit toward the student’s undergraduate degree that would ordinarily be graded on an A, B, C, D, or F basis but for which the student will receive either a Z or an F grade. Upon making this election, the student will receive a Z grade for the course if the student earns the equivalent of a C or higher in the course; otherwise, the student will receive an F grade. To make this Z grade election as to a particular course, the student must obtain the approval of the student’s dean. The election may not be made as to the following courses: (1) a course that a student will use to satisfy university core curriculum requirements; (2) a course that a student will use to satisfy the required curriculum component of any major or minor course of study or any degree (that is, the courses specifically identified as required or the minimum semester hours in particular subjects or in a department indicated as required); and (3) a course that a student will use to satisfy any requirement of a major or minor course of study or degree that a minimum number of hours be taken in courses of a particular level or higher (e.g., 300 level or higher). If a student elects to take a course on a Z grade basis but then subsequently changes degree plans such that the course becomes one to which one of the foregoing exclusions apply, then the student must retake and receive credit for the course on an A, B, C, D, or F basis. A student who elects to take a course for a Z grade under this policy may rescind this election up through the last day for registering or adding classes, but not thereafter. Conversely, a student who registers to take a class offered on an A, B, C, D, or F basis but would be entitled to elect to take the class on a Z grade basis according to this policy may make this election up through the last day for registering or adding classes, but not thereafter.

X Mark

The mark of X is recorded for the student who enrolls as an auditor in a course and who fulfills all requirements established by the instructor for auditing students. If the student does not meet the requirements, no recording of the course is made to the student’s permanent record. The deadline for changing one’s status in a course to or from “audit” is the course withdrawal deadline.

Change of Grade

A course instructor may change a reported grade only if the original grade was incorrectly assigned due to clerical or computational error, or if a student meets the requirements for the removal of an I mark.

Repeating a Course

No course may be repeated for credit if the prior grade received was an A, B, or C unless the course is specifically authorized for repeat credit, or unless a higher grade is required as a prerequisite for a specific course. A course where the first grade received was A, B, or C may be taken again for audit credit with the consent of the instructor.

A student may repeat a course if the first grade received was D, F, Z, or P. Credit may be applied toward a degree only once, unless the course is specifically authorized for repeat credit. All grades will remain on the student’s permanent record and will be computed in the student’s overall GPA, except when the forgiveness policy is invoked.

The Forgiveness Policy

A current undergraduate student may improve his or her overall GPA by repeating a maximum of two courses in which the student received a grade of D or F, and requesting that the repeat grade be the only one counted in the GPA calculation. The repeat must be in the same course, taken at The University of Mississippi in fall 1992 or later. The student must file a Petition to Invoke Grade Forgiveness Policy with the registrar, stating which one or two courses are to be forgiven. Once the student has declared a course, a different course cannot be substituted for it at a later date. The forgiveness policy cannot be used to remove grades given for reasons of academic discipline. Forgiveness of a course grade will not change notations concerning academic standing or honors in the student’s official record for the semester containing the forgiven course.

Although both courses will remain on the student’s permanent record, the last grade received will be the one used to determine credit towards a degree and GPA. The first attempt will be recorded with both the grade earned and the symbol R to denote that it has been repeated. The recalculated GPA will be used

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for determining graduation honors.

The forgiveness policy does not apply to students enrolled in the professional program in the School of Pharmacy for grades received in required professional courses as designated in the curricula for the B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees.

Grade Reporting

Reports of final grades are available through the registrar's online Web page.

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