

GUIDELINE ON GRADING

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This document establishes guidelines for grading in Psychology courses.

Distribution of Grades

The Department monitors the grade distribution in 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in Psychology with the goal of bringing the distribution of grades in Psychology courses roughly in line with the distribution of grades in the Faculty of Arts. Students can expect that approximately 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be “A” grades (A+, A, and A-), and approximately 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be “A” grades.

Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology instructors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

1. **A+ grade:** Exceptional Performance. A grade of A+ indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.
2. **A, A- Range:** Excellent Performance. Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student’s thorough knowledge of subject matter.
3. **B Range:** Good Performance. Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.
4. **C Range:** Satisfactory Performance. Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.
5. **D range:** Marginally meets standards. Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.
6. **F grade:** Course standards not met. Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit