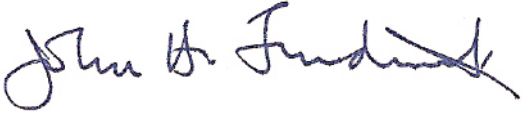


**MEMORANDUM**

Date: December 3, 2010  
To: Department Chairs  
From: John H. Frederick   
Subject: New grading system policy

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Last spring, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution to allow more flexibility in the grading system utilized by the university. After a series of discussions with faculty and with student leadership, I am pleased to introduce a new grading system policy, effective Fall 2011, which now allows faculty to utilize plus- and minus- options on letter grades, including “A+.” The attached policy document provides more details about the new grading policy, including how it will be implemented in the undergraduate and graduate catalogs.

Although not explicitly stated in the policy, the intent is for this policy to be “permissive,” but not “restrictive.” In other words, faculty may utilize the +/- options, or not, as they deem appropriate. The new policy also does not preclude more restrictive policies at the departmental or college level, should academic units wish to implement their own, more narrowly defined, grading systems. As a result, a department may opt to allow only +/- grading in its courses, or to allow only grades of “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” or “F,” if a majority of its faculty so chooses. Departments may also choose to regulate a consistent grading system across all sections of a multi-section course, if desired.

The new policy maintains all academic requirements based on cumulative grade-point-averages (GPAs). Consequently, a GPA of 2.0 is still required for undergraduates to be in good academic standing, and a GPA of 3.0 is likewise required of graduate students to be in good academic standing. Any academic requirements that hinge upon grades earned in individual courses will have those requirements devolve to the “-” form of a grade. As a result, if a student must presently earn a “C” or better in a prerequisite course, under the new system, they would need to earn a “C-” or better.

I ask that you share this new policy with your faculty.

C: Carola Wenk  
Amy Jaspersen  
Deans  
Vice Provosts

## Policy for the Plus/Minus Grading System

The plus/minus grading system will be adopted by UTSA for Fall Semester 2011, or when the Office of the Registrar and the Office of Information Technology can implement it. The system will give faculty the option to fine tune their grading strategies by enabling them to assign a plus or minus distinction to each student's grade. The use of the plus/minus grading option is not mandatory, but is left completely to the discretion of the individual faculty member. Faculty members who wish to assign plus and minus grades are free to determine their own grading guidelines.

This policy applies to all undergraduate and graduate courses.

### Grade Points

Grade points per semester credit hour for the plus/minus grading system for letter grades will be assigned according to the following table:

Letter Grade	Grade Points
A+	4.00
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.00
D-	0.67
F	0.00

### GPA Considerations

All policies relating to GPA requirements will remain the same as they are with the existing grading system. The following are some examples of GPA requirements that will remain the same under the plus/minus grading system. The list is not complete.

1. Undergraduates will be required to earn a minimum overall UTSA grade point average of 2.00 to maintain an academic status of "good standing."
2. In addition to other requirements, graduate student will be required to earn a minimum overall UTSA GPA of 3.00 to maintain an academic status of "good standing."
3. Undergraduates will be required to achieve an overall GPA of at least 2.00 in all work attempted at UTSA and a GPA of at least 2.00 in all work included in the major in order to receive a bachelor's degree from UTSA.

4. Graduate students will be required to achieve an overall UTSA GPA of at least 3.00 in order to receive a graduate degree from UTSA.
5. The GPA requirements for admission into certain colleges and programs will remain the same.
6. The GPA requirements for the President's List, the Dean's List, and Honor Roll will remain the same.

### **Minimum Course Grade Considerations**

Minimum course grade requirements will default from the current grade to the minus grade.

### Undergraduate Courses and Programs

1. Receiving a grade of "D-" in an undergraduate course is considered passing the course. Unless stated otherwise, a course completed with a grade of "D-" or better will count toward a bachelor's degree if the course fits into the degree requirements.
2. Unless stated otherwise, a course completed with a grade of "D-" or better may be used to meet a prerequisite requirement for another course.
3. Some courses have prerequisites that must be completed with grades of "C" or better. Under the plus/minus grading system, prerequisites for such courses must be completed with grades of "C-" or better.
4. Some bachelor degree programs require that certain courses must be completed with grades of "C" or better in order to count toward the degree. Under the plus/minus grading system, those courses must be completed with grades of "C-" or better in order to satisfy the degree requirement.
5. If an undergraduate repeats an undergraduate course in which he or she has received a grade of "D+," "D," "D-," or "F" and receives a higher grade, then semester credit hours for the original grade of "D+," "D," "D-," or "F" are excluded from the calculation of the grade point average. Only the semester credit hours from the higher grade are used in the calculation of the grade point average. If the student receives the same grade or a lower grade, then the repeated course is not used in the calculation of the student's grade point average. The present "limitation to repeating courses to improve grades" policy applies to the plus/minus grading system.

### Graduate Courses and Programs

1. A graduate course completed with a grade of "C-" or better may be used to count toward a graduate degree.
2. A graduate course completed with a grade of "C-" or better may be used to satisfy a prerequisite requirement for another graduate course.
3. With the appropriate approvals, a graduate student may apply to a master's degree a maximum of 6 semester credit hours of unduplicated credit for undergraduate upper-division courses completed at UTSA with grades of "A+," "A," "A-," "B+," "B," or "B-."
4. The policy for academic probation for graduate students will remain essentially the same with the modified stipulation that a graduate student receiving a grade of "D+," "D," or "D-" in a course in a term will be placed on academic probation. (The rationale is that such a student has received a grade less than the default grade of "C-.")

5. The policy for academic dismissal for graduate students remains the same. In particular, a graduate student receiving a grade of “F” in a course in a term will be placed on academic dismissal.

**Notice**

Transcripts issued by UTSA shall include a notation indicating the semester of adoption for the university’s voluntary plus/minus grading system.