

**PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW  
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**EXAMINATION AND GRADING RULES**

**Grading and Mark Distribution for JD Students**

Upper Year Courses

1. In all courses having an enrollment of 50 or more the average shall be in the 70-74.0000% range.
2. In all courses having an enrollment of 40 or more, but fewer than 50, the average shall be in the 70-75.0000% range.
3. In all courses having an enrollment of 21 or more, but fewer than 40, the average shall be in the 70-76.0000% range.
4. In all courses having an enrollment of fewer than 21 (and which are not taught in multiple sections) the average shall be in the 70-79.0000% range.
5. There is no requirement for each upper-year individual course component to fall within the required average range. Where a course has multiple assessed components, however, it is the responsibility of the instructor to ensure that the final class average falls within the required average range.
6. All upper-year courses taught in multiple sections in an academic year, which runs from September through August, shall apply the same average to each section. The average shall be determined on the last day of class in the fall term based on the largest section of the course in any term during that Winter Session. For example, if on the last day of fall classes, a course has one spring term section with 65 registered students and one fall term section with 14 registered students, then each section must have an average between 70 – 74.0000% (even if the spring term section's registration subsequently changes).

First-Year Courses

7. The First Year December examinations are subject to a requirement that the average marks for each class fall within a specified range of averages being 65%-75.0000%
8. The First Year Assignments and April examinations are subject to a requirement that the average marks for each class fall within a specified range being 70-75.0000%.
9. All sections of a first-year course will contain the same grading components, and each component across sections must be worth the same amount. Each grading component for each first-year course section must fall within the required average range.
10. For Full-Year First Year Law Courses with a December practice exam and an April final exam:  
  
If the December Exam Mark is less than or equal to the April Exam Mark, then the April Exam mark equals the Overall Exam Mark. Otherwise, if the December Exam Mark is greater than the April Exam Mark, then 25% of the December Exam Mark plus 75% of the April Exam Mark equals the Overall Exam Mark.

If there is an Additional Graded Component for the course, then the Overall Exam Mark plus the Additional Graded Component Mark = the Final Mark in the Course.

## First-Year and Upper-Year Courses

11. Faculty members are encouraged to achieve the following distribution of cumulative overall averages.

Assigned Mark	Required Letter Grade	Suggested Word Description	Suggested % W/I Categories
90> 85-89 80-84	A+ A A-	Excellent (87.5)	10-15
76-79 72-75 68-71	B+ B B-	Good (73.5)	50-60
64-67 60-63 55-59	C+ C C-	Satisfactory (61.5)	20-30
50-54	D	Barely Adequate (52)	5-10
0-49	F	Fail	1-5 1 <sup>st</sup> Year 0-3 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Years

11. An instructor wishing to award a grade in excess of 90% must provide justification to the Academic Procedures Committee. If not satisfied, the Committee may take such action as it considers appropriate, including a re-read by a different instructor or a lowering of the grade.
12. An instructor may apply to the Academic Procedures Committee for variance from the rules concerning averages.

### **Grading and Mark Distribution for Graduate Students**

- The rules pertaining to Grading and Mark Distribution for JD Students do not apply to Graduate Students with the exception of Rule 11 (marks over 90%) which does apply.
- The Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies applies different grading standards to graduate students than are applied to JD students.

For Masters students, a Fail (F) for individual courses is defined as below 60%:

Percentage (%)	Letter Grade
90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
76-79	B+
72-75	B
68-71	B-
64-67	C+
60-63	C
0-59	F (Fail)

For PhD students, a Fail (F) for individual courses is defined as below 68%:

Percentage (%)	Letter Grade
90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
76-79	B+
72-75	B
68-71	B-
0-67	F (Fail)

3. Masters students are permitted to apply only six (6) credits of courses with grades in the C to C+ range (60-67%) towards their Masters degree program. For all other courses, a minimum of 68% must be obtained.

### Miscellaneous Rules

1. Use of questions used on previous examinations on file in the law library and on the library web site is strongly discouraged for fairness reasons. Old examinations are available to students and some may have studied from an old exam.
2. For courses listed in the University Calendar as capable of being offered on a pass-fail basis, instructors wishing to grade on a pass-fail basis must obtain the approval of the Associate Dean at least one week prior to student registration in the course. If the change is approved, the Director of Student Academic Services must submit a request to the Academic Governance Office in the Senate and Curriculum Services office to have the change recorded in the UBC Faculty Course Management System.
3. If an instructor determines that an assigned standing (e.g. grade) is in error, the instructor may revise the assigned standing, subject to approval by the Associate Dean, Academic (JD students) or the Associate Dean Graduate Studies (graduate students). Revisions will normally be approved where they result from arithmetic errors.
4. Instructors are required to discuss the examination papers and other assignments with students for pedagogical purposes only. A student who, after meeting with their instructor, believes that some or all of the material contributing to the assigned standing has been incorrectly evaluated, should review the law school's [Review of Assigned Standing](#) rules and may apply for such review through Enrolment Services.
5. Where an upper-year course consists of multiple assessed components, instructors must indicate this on the syllabus. Where the instructor does not intend to adjust each individual component so that it falls within the required average range, this must also be stated on the syllabus.
6. All scheduled examinations are mandatory.