

Ryerson Faculty of Law

Grade & Academic Standing Policy

Grading Scale

The Faculty of Law's official grading system is alphanumeric. It must be applied to all courses except in cases approved by the Academic Committee (for example, where the expected learning outcomes of a course require a Pass/Fail grading scheme).¹

The Grading System for the Faculty of Law is as follows:

Grades included in GPA	Grades not included in GPA
<p style="text-align: center;">Excellent A+ (90-100) A (85-89) A- (80-84)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Good B+ (77-79) B (73-76) B- (70-72)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Satisfactory C+ (67-69) C (63-66) C- (60-62)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Marginal D+ (57-59) D (53-56) D- (50-52)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Unsatisfactory F (0-49)</p>	<p>AEG Aegrotat (Not included in GPA calculation)</p> <p>AUD Audit</p> <p>CHG Challenge Credit</p> <p>CNC Course not for credit in current program</p> <p>CRT Transfer Credit (equivalent course)</p> <p>DEF Deferred (only assigned during investigation of academic misconduct)</p> <p>EXN Exemption</p> <p>FLD Failure</p> <p>GNR Grade not reported</p> <p>INC Incomplete</p> <p>INP In Progress</p> <p>NSC Transfer Credit (non specific course)</p> <p>PSD Acceptable performance</p>

¹ The Academic Committee may approve courses in which students are graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Where students are graded on this basis, the student receives credit for the course but the course units are not included in computing the student's grade point average.

Course Grade Point Average

In first year lecture courses, B is the average grade for all evaluated assignments and exams. It is recommended that no more than 20% of students are awarded grades A- or higher, and no more than 20% of students are awarded grades of C+ or lower.

In the first year seminar course and upper year seminar courses, B or B+ is the average grade for all evaluated assignments and exams.

Grading procedures

1. Before uploading the final grades in a course, instructors shall calculate the average and distribution for the course, ensure the final grade complies with the average requirements, and submit student grades and calculations to the Associate Dean.
2. Where the average is not in line with the requirements, instructors will work with the Associate Dean Academic to attempt to find an informal resolution. If the matter is not resolved informally, the instructor can apply to Faculty Council, which may confirm adjusted grades or the instructor's nonconforming marks.
3. It is recommended that instructors calculate the average on assignments and exams, and ensure it complies with the average requirements.

Grades Provisional until Approved by Faculty Council

Grades on assignments, papers and examinations that are disclosed to students prior to the publication of official grades are provisional grades only and subject to adjustments necessary to meet the Faculty of Law Grade and Academic Standing Policy.

Anonymous Grading Policy

In order to maintain anonymity in the evaluation of student work:

- a) Written tests and examinations, for which anonymous grading is feasible, shall be graded and recorded by the instructor on an anonymous basis;
- b) In the case of anonymous grading, instructors will use grade sheets that contain student numbers only, and not student names;
- c) If available, recommendations for course prizes will be made anonymously by submitting the student number of the student with the highest grade in the class;
- d) This policy is not to be interpreted or applied in a way that discourages the use of individualized assignments or the giving of individualized guidance to students in the preparation of essays or other assignments.

Deadline for Submission of Assignments

Written coursework is due on the date specified by the instructor and no later than the last day of classes each term. The Faculty expects students to prepare for and make themselves available to write all exams and submit all assignments as scheduled. Given that students have the benefit of advance notification of paper or assignment due dates and exams, students are expected to schedule their time with consideration given to the possibility that they may become ill or other extraordinary circumstances may arise.

All requests to extend the deadline for writing an exam or submitting work constitutes a Request for Academic Consideration under Policy 167. All requests must be submitted online and directly to the Instructor in accordance with the procedures outlined there and will be monitored for frequency and validity.

Academic Standing and Performance

Full-time attendance is required during the academic year, unless accommodations for a disability under the Ontario Human Rights Code has been granted.

To satisfy the requirements for the JD degree a student must maintain an overall average of 60% throughout the three years, have passed all required courses, including the professional placement, and passed five elective courses in the program.

Definition of Failed Course

A failed course is any course (regardless of credit weight) where the student obtained a final grade of less than 50% before being given an opportunity to complete a special examination (if applicable) at the discretion of the Faculty Academic Standing Committee.

Definition of Failed Year

A student is deemed to have failed the year if: (1) the student has failed two or more courses in a given year; or (2) the student attained an overall average of less than 60% in all courses taken in the year; or (3) the student has failed a course after special examinations (if applicable) have been given.

Passing First Year

To progress to second year, a first year student must have: (1) an overall average of 60% in all twelve courses (including the two intensives) in the first year program and not have failed any course; or (2) if the student has one failed course, the student may complete a special examination (if applicable) at the discretion of the Faculty Academic Standing Committee. The student must obtain a pass (50%) in order to clear the failed course. The special examination grade (if applicable) will then be used to calculate the student's overall average. The student must have an overall average of 60% to progress to second year.

Passing Second Year

To progress to third year a second year student must have: (1) have an overall average of 60% in all twelve courses (including the two intensives) in the second year program and not have failed any course; or (2) if the student has one failed course, the student may complete a special examination (if applicable) at the discretion of the Faculty Academic Standing

Committee. The student must obtain a pass (50%) in order to clear the failed course. The special examination grade (if applicable) will then be used to calculate the student's overall average. The student must have an overall average of 60% to progress to third year.

Passing Third Year

To graduate, a third year student must have: (1) have an overall average of 60% in all six courses (including the intensive) in the classwork semester of the year and successfully completed the professional placement; or (2) if the student has one failed course among the six in the courses in the classwork semester, the student may complete a special examination (if applicable) at the discretion of the Faculty Academic Standing Committee.

Rules Governing Students Who Have Failed A Year

A student who has failed a year is eligible to apply for readmission to the Faculty of Law. The student's application to be readmitted will be recommended by the Academic Standings Committee of the Faculty based upon academic grounds. Any application for re-admission must be dealt with prior to the start of the year of studies. A student who is allowed to repeat a year and fails a second time in the law program will not be allowed to continue in the JD program.

A student who has failed the first year of the program must repeat all first year courses. A student who has failed the second year of the program must repeat all second year courses.

A student who fails the coursework semester of the third year must repeat all courses except for elective courses in which a minimum mark of 60% was attained. A student who fails the professional placement must repeat it before graduating. No student may repeat more than one year of the program.

Students in the Juris Doctor program are excluded from all probationary entitlements held by other Ryerson students pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies.

Grades Appeals & Appeals of Academic Standing

Students who wish to submit a Grade Appeal of a final official grade or Appeal of Academic Standing may do so after attempting to consult with their instructor and the Associate Dean (Academic). This consultation must occur as soon as possible after grades and/or notice of academic standing are posted, allowing enough time to meet the deadline for the last date to appeal. In all cases where the mandatory preliminary meeting with the instructor could not be held and would prevent the student from respecting the prescribed deadlines, the student must provide written evidence that he or she attempted to reach the instructor regarding the final grade.

The Associate Dean (Academic) may attempt to resolve matters informally during consultation and before an Appeal is filed. However, except in the case of an error in calculation, neither the instructor nor the Associate Dean has the authority to change a grade once official.

Where matters can not be resolved informally, students may submit an appeal in the Faculty of Law to the Dean or designate by the deadline stated in the Ryerson Calendars using the

forms (and instructions) available on the Senate (www.ryerson.ca/senate), the Student Records websites or from the Faculty of Law.

Upon receipt of the appeal, the Dean or a designate, may appoint and chair an Appeal panel at his or her discretion and notify the student of a decision or a delay within 10 working days.

For the purposes of Policy 168, no departmental appeals exist in the Faculty of Law and the Dean or designate exercises all the rights, powers, and privileges of the Chair and the Dean in this and related Policies.