

ASSESSMENT POLICY



SCHEDULE 1: GRADING REQUIREMENTS

1 PURPOSE

This Schedule supports implementation of the [Assessment Policy](#).

2 SCHEDULE

- 2.1 The following grades are common to all coursework units that are offered by or on behalf of Macquarie University.
- 2.2 The attainment (or otherwise) of learning outcomes for units of study are reported:
- (i) by grade and mark: the mark and grade must correspond as indicated in the Schedule below; or
 - (ii) by grade only: the grade should be either Satisfactory or Fail.

Unit convenors may develop criteria and standards for specific assessment tasks, but these must be aligned with the grading descriptors given below.

- 2.3 Grades for all individual assessment tasks will be released to students; it is not essential to also release the mark.
- 2.4 Grading decisions for each assessment task will be moderated against the standards before task results are released.
- 2.5 The method by which the results in individual assessment items are employed to arrive at the final result for a unit will be simple, transparent and communicated to students in their unit guide.
- 2.6 Final grades for the unit must reflect the descriptors given below:

ASSESSMENT GRADES AND STATUS

GRADE	RANGE	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION
HD	85-100	Pass	Provides consistent evidence of deep and critical understanding in relation to the learning outcomes. There is substantial originality, insight or creativity in identifying, generating and communicating competing arguments, perspectives or problem solving approaches; critical evaluation of problems, their solutions

¹ 'Standard Grade' in AMIS

			and their implications; creativity in application as appropriate to the course/program*.
D	75-84	Pass	Provides evidence of integration and evaluation of critical ideas, principles and theories, distinctive insight and ability in applying relevant skills and concepts in relation to learning outcomes. There is demonstration of frequent originality or creativity in defining and analysing issues or problems and providing solutions; and the use of means of communication appropriate to the course/program* and the audience.
CR	65-74	Pass	Provides evidence of learning that goes beyond replication of content knowledge or skills relevant to the learning outcomes. There is demonstration of substantial understanding of fundamental concepts in the field of study and the ability to apply these concepts in a variety of contexts; convincing argumentation with appropriate coherent justification; communication of ideas fluently and clearly in terms of the conventions of the course/program*.
P	50-64	Pass	Provides sufficient evidence of the achievement of learning outcomes. There is demonstration of understanding and application of fundamental concepts of the course/program*; routine argumentation with acceptable justification; communication of information and ideas adequately in terms of the conventions of the course/program*. The learning attainment is considered satisfactory or adequate or competent or capable in relation to the specified outcomes.
F	0-49	Fail	Does not provide evidence of attainment of learning outcomes. There is missing or partial or superficial or faulty understanding and application of the fundamental concepts in the field of study; missing, undeveloped, inappropriate or confusing argumentation; incomplete, confusing or lacking communication of ideas in ways that give little attention to the conventions of the course/program*.
FA	0-49	Fail Absent	The student has failed for non-submission of assessment task or non-attendance at a required assessment

FH	49	Fail Hurdle	Student has obtained a raw mark over 50, yet failed all available attempts of at least one hurdle assessment (as described within Schedule 2: Unit Assessment Requirements).
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*Note – In accordance with the Curriculum Architecture [Policy](#), from 1 January 2020 'programs' are known as 'courses'.

Final Grades not receiving a mark			
GRADE	RANGE	STATUS	DESCRIPTION
S	No mark	Pass	To be awarded in units of study where student achievement is measured as a pass or fail only without a mark to students who, in their performance in assessment tasks, demonstrate the learning outcomes for the unit at an acceptable standard
F	No mark	Fail	Student has not met the defined standards at an appropriate level within a specified time
FW	No mark	Fail	Awarded when a student withdraws from a unit or units after the Census Date, and when academic and/or financial penalties <u>have</u> been applied
I		Grade Not Submitted	Unit is incomplete. The student has not submitted or completed one or more components of the assessment
IS		Grade Not Submitted	Unit is incomplete and supplementary assessment has been granted
K		Grade Not Submitted	Enrolment continuing: the unit is taken over

			more than one session, and the assessment will be finalised in a later session
SC**		Grade Not Submitted	Grade not recorded due to special circumstances
UD		Grade Not Submitted	Result not finalised. Student has submitted a request for Special Consideration due to disruption, for which the outcome is pending
UJ		Grade Not Submitted	Result is finalised, but not yet released, due to an unresolved matter. <i><Usually used in cases of allegations of academic misconduct or disciplinary matters></i>
UL		Grade Not Submitted	Result awaited from Unit Convenor <i><used to indicate 'late' grades. ></i>
UE		Grade Not Submitted	Student is undertaking an exchange course/program*; unit result awaited
W		Grade Not Submitted	Awarded when a student withdraws from a unit or units after the Census Date, and when academic and/or financial penalties have <u>not</u> been applied
Z		Grade Not Submitted	Indicates a thesis or dissertation has been submitted and is being assessed

*Note – In accordance with the Curriculum Architecture [Policy](#), from 1 January 2020 'programs' are known as 'courses'.

**Note – The SC grade (grade not recorded due to special circumstances) was a COVID-19 pandemic provision approved 15 May 2020. It was expired 1 January 2021 in accordance with Academic Senate Resolution (20/97).

WEIGHTED AVERAGE MARK

Weighted Average Mark (WAM) for students commencing in a course of study from 1 January 2020 and students transferred to a course of study under the 2020 curriculum:

Students studying at Macquarie University from 1 January 2020 and onwards will receive a WAM. A WAM is the average out of 100 of ALL marks a student has achieved in all units of their course – refer to the [WAM or GPA Estimator](#) webpage for further details. Students enrolled after the last date to withdraw without academic penalty are not permitted to self-withdraw, and will receive a mark that will be included in a WAM calculation, except where a case for withdrawal without academic penalty is approved.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

A Grade Point Average (GPA) is a calculation that reflects the overall grades of a student in a coursework program. It will be calculated on the basis of the units completed at Macquarie University towards the program. It will not take into account credit points granted through RPL or non-award study. The calculation will be based on the following:

GPA calculation for students who commenced at Macquarie University from 1 January 2017 and completed their program before 1 January 2020

For students who commenced at Macquarie University from 1 January 2017 and completed their program before 1 January 2020, their GPA will be calculated on a 7-point scale as detailed below:

	Mark range	
HD	85-100	7
D	75-84	6
Cr	65-74	5
P	50-64	4
F	0-49	0

$GPA = (7v + 6w + 5x + 4y + 0f) \div e$ where v is the number of credit points gained at HD, w is the number of credit points gained at D, x is the number of credit points gained at Cr, y is the number of credit points gained at P, e is the total number of credit points for which a student is effectively enrolled (excluding units with W or S), f is the number of credit points gained with an F grade. Refer to the [Calculate your GPA](#) webpage for further details.

GPA calculation for students who commenced their program of study at Macquarie University before 1 January 2017

For students who commenced at Macquarie University prior to 1 January 2017 the GPA is calculated using a 4-point scale as follows:

GPA calculation for grades obtained from 2011 and onwards

GPA = $(4w + 3x + 2y + 0f)$ divided by e where w is the number of credit points gained at HD and D, x is the number of credit points gained at Cr, y is the number of credit points gained at P, e is the total number of credit points for which a student is effectively enrolled (excluding units with W or S), f is the number of credit points gained with an F grade.

Refer to the [Calculate your GPA](#) webpage for further details.

Grades obtained from 2001 – 2010

GPA = $(4w + 3x + 2y + 1z + 0f)$ divided by e where w is the number of credit points gained at HD and D, x is the number of credit points gained at Cr, y is the number of credit points gained at P, z is the number of credit points gained at PC, e is the total number of credit points for which a student is effectively enrolled (excluding units with W or S), f is the number of credit points gained with an F grade.

Refer to the [Calculate your GPA](#) webpage for further details.

Grades obtained prior to 2001

GPA = $(4a + 3b + 2c + 1cq + 0f)$ divided by e where a is the number of credit points gained at A grade, b is the number of credit points gained at B grade, c is the number of credit points gained at C grade, cq is the number of credit points gained at CQ grade, e is the total number of credit points for which a student is effectively enrolled (excluding units with W or P), f is the number of credit points gained with an F grade.

Refer to the [Calculate your GPA](#) webpage for further details.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Assessment [Policy](#)

[Schedule 2](#) Course/Program and Unit Assessment Requirements

[Schedule 3](#) Higher Degree Research Assessment Requirements - see the Higher Degree Research Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination [Policy](#)

[Schedule 4](#) Final Examination Requirements

[Schedule 5](#) Moderation Requirements

[Schedule 6](#) Unit Guide Requirements

Curriculum Architecture [Policy](#)

Final Examination [Procedure](#)

[Special Consideration Policy](#)

Supporting Webpages

[Calculate your GPA](#)

[WAM or GPA Estimator](#)

3 NOTES

3.1	Contact Officer	Chair, Senate Learning and Teaching Committee
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3.2	Implementation Officer	Associate Deans Learning and Teaching & Associate Deans Quality and Standards
3.3	Approval Authority / Authorities	Academic Senate
3.4	Date Approved	5 April 2016
3.5	Date of Commencement	Beginning of Session 2, 2016
3.6	Date for Review	April 2019
3.7	Documents Superseded by this Schedule	Assessment Policy approved 4 October 2011 Grading Policy approved 3 August 2010 Final Examinations Policy approved 5 June 2012
3.8	Amendment History	<p>1 January 2021 – amendments to Assessment Policy Schedule 1 Grading Requirements and Schedule 4 Final Examination Requirements in accordance with Academic Senate Resolution (20/97); removal of emergency amendments introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>20 May 2020 – Inclusion of COVID-19 Pandemic Provisions, and introduction of SC grade (Special Circumstances), in accordance with 15 May 2020 Executive Action approval by the Chair of Academic Senate. Minor amendments also made to move FA grade from table of Final Grades not receiving a mark, to table of grades receiving a mark, and to specify that the range of an FA grade is between 0-49. Also specified in the range column that a FW grade receives no mark.</p> <p>16 January 2020 – Inclusion of information concerning Weighted Average Mark (WAM), supporting webpages and tables for calculating WAM or GPA, and terminology change from ‘program’ to ‘course’ in accordance with Curriculum Architecture Policy and Academic Senate Res 19/107.</p> <p>29 May 2018 – Academic Senate approve revised definition of FA ‘fail absent’.</p> <p>4 December 2017 – reference to ‘Special Consideration’ inserted under ‘UD’ grade. Special Consideration Policy added as a related document.</p> <p>6 December 2016: Change Grade from UX to UE (Student is undertaking an exchange program: unit result awaited) and WN to W (Awarded when a student withdraws from a unit or units after the Census Date and when academic and/or financial penalties have <u>not</u> been applied) – approved by Academic Senate Res 16/254.</p> <p>December 2016: Minor amendment to clarify GPA calculation for students who commenced their program of study after 1 January 2017.</p>

		October 2016: Insert Grade FH regarding failed hurdle assessment – Academic Senate Res 16/219.
3.9	Policy Authorisation	Assessment Policy (effective Session 2 2016)