

CREDITS & GRADING

Grading System

The following grading system is standardized for all colleges and schools of the university. Each instructor is responsible for determining the requirements for a class, determining the grading scale used, and for assigning grades on the basis of those requirements and grading scale by the grade submission deadline each term.

Standard Grade Points per Hour of Credit

A	superior/excellent, 4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	good/better than average, 3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	competent/average, 2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	minimum passing, 0.7
F	failing, 0.0

Other Grade Symbols

CR	Credit. Excluded from GPA.
I	Incomplete; changed to F if not completed within one year
IP	In progress; thesis at the graduate level or specified graduate-level courses
NC	No credit
NR	Class grades were not reported when final grades were processed
P	Passing; effective spring 2020, under pass/fail option, grades of D+, D or D- convert to P. Law School requires a grade of 72 or above to Pass. Excluded from GPA.
P+	Passing; effective spring 2020, under pass/fail option, grades of C- and above convert to P+. Excluded from GPA.
S	Satisfactory (effective fall 2022; formerly pass/fail only). Excluded from GPA.
U	Unsatisfactory (effective fall 2022; formerly pass/fail only). Excluded from GPA.
W	Withdraw
***	Student is currently enrolled in a class; in progress

Incomplete (I) Grades

An incomplete (I) grade indicates that the student did not complete the requirements for the class by the end of the grading period for that semester. Requests for incomplete grades must be initiated by the

student and only when, for reasons beyond their control, the student is unable to complete the class requirements within the semester of enrollment. A substantial amount of work (at least two-thirds) must have been satisfactorily completed before approval for such an incomplete grade is given.

If an instructor grants a request for an incomplete, the instructor sets the conditions under which the coursework can be completed and the time limit for its completion or if the class should be retaken. Incomplete grades, along with a last date of attendance (for financial aid purposes) must be submitted by the grading deadline of the term.

If the student does not complete the class requirements within one year from the end of the semester in which the Incomplete was assigned, the I grade is converted to a failing (F) grade.

If an incomplete-graded class is retaken, it must be completed on the Boulder campus or through Boulder Continuing Education coursework, and the student must re-register for the course and pay the appropriate tuition. The initial grade of I is not removed from the transcript if the course is completed within one year of the end of the term of the previous enrollment. When a final grade has been assigned, the transcript states, "Originally graded as Incomplete."

For graduating students, I grades assigned in courses required for a degree must be resolved before degrees may be posted. Unresolved I grades in required coursework will result in graduation being postponed. Students must reapply for graduation in a subsequent term. I grades assigned in courses not required for their degree must be resolved no later than the grading deadline of the term of graduation. If left unresolved, I grades become permanent and subsequent grade changes are not honored.

Not Reported (NR) and In Progress (IP)

Similar to Incomplete grades, graduating students who have either NR or IP status in courses required for a degree must have them resolved and converted to an official grade before degrees will be posted. Unresolved NR and IP status grades in required coursework will result in graduation being postponed. Students must reapply for graduation in a subsequent term. NR and IP status grades assigned in courses not required for a degree must be resolved by the last regular class day of the term of graduation. If left unresolved, NR and IP grades become permanent and subsequent grade change requests are not honored.

Grade Changes

Students who believe a grade was assigned in error must request a grade change by the published deadline of their home college or school. However, grade changes for graduating students must be submitted and processed prior to degrees being posted to academic records. Grade changes will not be processed to an academic record with a conferred degree.

It is left to the discretion of the faculty member to determine if a grade change is warranted. This policy does not apply to grading grievances. See Student Appeals, Complaints & Grievances (<https://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-appeals-complaints-grievances-brief-guide/>).

Grade Point Average

The overall University of Colorado grade point average (GPA) is computed as follows: the credit hours and credit points are totaled for all courses and across all campuses within the same career (UGRD, GRAD or LAW); then the total credit points are divided by the total credit hours. Courses with grade symbols of P, P+, NC, *** (grade not yet entered), W, I and IP are

excluded from calculations. All standard letter grades (A-F) are included in the GPA, including grades of F earned for courses graded on a pass/fail basis. Grades of I that are not completed within one year are converted to F grades and calculated in the GPA at the end of the one-year grace period. Below is an example GPA calculation for a hypothetical semester:

Grade Earned: A;	Credit Points per Hour: 4.0; x Credit Hours: 4.0 = Credit Points in Course: 16.0
Grade Earned: A-;	Credit Points per Hour: 3.7; x Credit Hours: 4.0 = Credit Points in Course: 14.8
Grade Earned: B+;	Credit Points per Hour: 3.3; x Credit Hours: 4.0 = Credit Points in Course: 13.2
Grade Earned: P or P+;	Credit Points per Hour: —; x Credit Hours: 3.0 = Credit Points in Course: — (excluded)
Grade Earned: F;	Credit Points per Hour: 0; x Credit Hours: 3.0 = Credit Points in Course: 0
Total of 15 credit hours with 44 credit points, so $44/15 = 2.93$ GPA	

For individual GPA calculations related to graduation requirements for a college or school, students should refer to their academic dean's office.

Numeric GPAs displayed on the transcript are carried out to three decimal points and are not rounded up to the nearest whole number.

No Credit

Students who wish to take coursework for no credit (also known as 'audit') must indicate this through the no-credit request form, after they register for classes for a given term. Changes in credit registration are not permitted after the third Friday of the regular 16-week fall or spring session, or after the add/drop deadline of any special fall or spring session or Summer Session. Tuition is the same whether or not credit is received in a class. Classes taken for no credit won't fulfill degree requirements or count toward a student's enrollment totals for enrollment status or financial aid.

Pass/Fail (P/F)

Students should refer to the college and school sections of this catalog to determine the number of pass/fail credit hours that may be taken in a given semester or credited toward a specific bachelor's degree. Exceptions to the pass/fail regulations are permitted for certain courses that are offered only on a pass/fail basis. Effective Fall 2022, courses graded on a pass/fail only basis were replaced with the satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading basis (see below).

The pass/fail grading student option is only available if the department offering the course allows the student option. Students who opt to register for a class on a pass/fail basis should do so during registration, but not later than the published grading basis change deadline for a given term.

Changes to or from a pass/fail student option basis are not permitted after the tenth Friday of the regular 16-week fall or spring session, or after the add/drop deadline of any special fall or spring session or Summer Session. Prior to that date, students wishing to change a class's grading status from letter graded to the pass/fail student option can do so in Buff

Portal (<https://buffportal.colorado.edu/>). From the change your schedule card, students can select the class they want to change and select "Edit This Class."

Passing grades (P or P+) are included in credit totals, but do not affect student GPAs. Grades of D+, D and D- are considered passing grades of P. Grades of C- and above are considered passing grades of P+.

Classes that are graded on a pass/fail-only basis are not eligible to be taken for letter grades, and do not include the P+ grade. Pass/fail-only basis was replaced with satisfactory/unsatisfactory (see below) for undergraduate and graduate classes beginning fall 2022. Colorado Law still use pass/fail-only basis in select classes.

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)

Effective Fall 2022, the satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading basis is assigned to undergraduate and graduate courses that are predominantly experiential, field-based, practical in nature, or seminar-based, as well as for candidacy for degree enrollments (some exceptions apply). These courses were previously graded on a pass/fail only basis.

Satisfactory (S) grades are included in credit totals, but are not calculated in GPAs. Unsatisfactory (U) grades are neither included in credit totals nor GPA calculations. S or U grades are assigned directly by instructors based on whether course requirements are satisfied or expectations met.

Variable Credit

Select courses, such as independent study courses, are offered as variable credit. Students should consult their academic advisor and designate the number of credit hours they wish to receive for the class at the time of registration.

CU Boulder recognizes that learning may be acquired outside of traditional learning environments and will consider the award of credit for such learning in one of three ways. These include standardized examinations, individual course challenges, and assessments of learning experiences out of of institutions of higher education.

See the university's Credit for Prior Learning policy or the Office of the Registrar site for more detailed information on requirements, eligibility and procedures.

Course Challenge

Course challenge is a process by which students may seek to demonstrate knowledge and competencies in a specific CU Boulder course through an approved assessment in order to earn academic credit for that course. Per Colorado law, course challenge is available for GT Pathways courses. For non-GT Pathways CU Boulder undergraduate courses, an academic unit determines if a particular course is suitable for course challenge.

Successful course challenges are recorded as resident credit with a grade of CR (credit earned) within the term the challenge was completed, and are calculated in credit totals, but not in GPAs. Unsuccessful challenge exams are recorded on academic transcripts with a grade of U (Unsuccessful). U grades are not calculated in credit totals or in GPA calculations. CU Boulder assesses a per-credit administrative surcharge for Course Challenges.

Credit from Learning Experiences Outside of Higher Education

Prior learning may occur in settings outside of institutions of higher learning, such as in the workplace, business or industry, or the community, and CU Boulder academic units may give programmatic credit for prior learning for relevant work-related experience. Prior learning arrangements for specific academic programs must be approved by the respective dean(s), must clearly define expected learning outcomes and must have an associated assessment plan to monitor achievement of the learning objectives.

Earned credit for learning experiences outside of accredited institutions of higher learning is awarded as a block of external Credit for Prior Learning. It is calculated in credit totals, but not in GPAs. CU Boulder may assess a surcharge for CPL for external learning experiences.

Credit through Standardized Exam

Nationally recognized exams such as CLEP, AP, IB and DANTES allow students to earn college credit by achieving specific scores in select subject areas.

See the Office of Admissions' Credit by Examination page for information about earning credit through standardized exams.

Grade Replacement

CU Boulder students (excluding Law students) who previously earned a low grade in an eligible course may repeat that course in a later term and be eligible for grade replacement. Grade replacement affords students the opportunity to improve their cumulative GPA.

Grade replacement is applied automatically at the end of each term to eligible courses and students.

Under grade replacement, the grade earned in the most recent prior attempt of a course will still appear on the transcript, but it will be replaced in cumulative GPA and credit totals as long as the latest grade earned is the same or better. If a lower grade is earned in the latest attempt, grade replacement is not applied and the grades from both attempts will be used in computing cumulative and major grade point averages, total credits and academic standing.

When students repeat courses that are not eligible for grade replacement, the grade and credits earned in each attempt are included in student credit and GPA totals and calculations.

Some academic programs have limits on the number of course repeats allowed for specific courses or the number of attempts for degree applicability.

General Eligibility

Course Requirements

Only courses offered by and taken through CU Boulder are eligible for grade replacement. To qualify for grade replacement, the course also must:

- Be taken at CU Boulder for a letter grade (i.e., not taken pass/fail, satisfactory/unsatisfactory or for no credit).
- Not be a special topics course or any other course designated in the catalog as repeatable for credit (e.g., independent study, field experience, dissertation hours). *Exceptions:* Topics courses WRTG 1100, WRTG 1150, WRTG 1160,

WRTG 1250, WRTG 3020, WRTG 3030, WRTG 3035 and WRTG 3040 are eligible for grade replacement regardless of topic.

Student Requirements

To qualify for grade replacement, students must:

- Be an active student at CU Boulder (law students are not eligible). Students who have graduated cannot use grade replacement for a course taken in a completed academic career.
- Have earned a C- or lower (undergraduate students), or a C+ or lower (graduate students) in the most recent prior attempt of a course.

Opting Out of Grade Replacement

Students may repeat courses at any point in their academic career without invoking grade replacement by submitting an opt-out request to Office of the Registrar by the last day of classes of the term. In those cases, the grade and credits earned in each attempt are included in student credit and GPA totals and calculations.

Additional Information

For more information on grade replacement, visit the Office of the Registrar website (<https://www.colorado.edu/registrar/students/degree-planning/grade-replacement/>) or view the grade replacement policy in full (<https://www.colorado.edu/registrar/students/degree-planning/grade-replacement/policy/>).