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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credit Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>superior/excellent</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>good/better than average</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>competent/average</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>minimum passing</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>failing</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade Symbols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>incomplete; changed to F if not completed within one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>in progress; thesis at the graduate level or specified graduate-level courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>passing; effective spring 2020, under pass/fail option, grades of D+, D or D- convert to P. Specified courses may also be graded on a pass/fail only basis. Law School requires a grade of 72 or above to Pass. Excluded from GPA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P+</td>
<td>passing; effective spring 2020, under pass/fail option, grades of C- and above convert to P+. Excluded from GPA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>no credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>withdrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NR</td>
<td>class grades were not submitted when final grades were processed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>***</td>
<td>student is currently enrolled in a class; in progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanation of an I (Incomplete) Grade
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. 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. When a final grade has been assigned, the transcript states, “Originally graded as Incomplete.”

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 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.

If an incomplete 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 retaken within one year.

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 academic standing and graduation from a college or school, students should refer to their academic dean’s office.

Credit/No Credit
Students who wish to take coursework for no credit (audit) must indicate this through the no-credit request form, after they register for classes. 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 also don’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.

The pass/fail student option is only available if the department offering the course allows the pass/fail option. Students who opt to register for a class on a pass/fail basis should do so during registration.

Changes to or from a pass/fail 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 graded to pass/fail 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.

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.

Grade Replacement Policy Update

Updates to CU Boulder’s grade replacement policy, effective Spring 2022, were approved by the Provost in February 2022. As this change occurred during the 2021–22 academic year, both versions of the policy are included below.

Grade Replacement Policy (through Fall 2021)

Repeating Courses

Students may repeat courses at any point in their academic career without incurring grade replacement. In those cases, 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.

Grade Replacement

Under the grade replacement policy, degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students may retake a course in which they earned a low grade in an attempt to improve their cumulative GPA.

When a student retakes a course for grade replacement, the grade earned in the most recent prior attempt remains on the transcript. Their semester and cumulative GPA and credit totals are updated to exclude the most recent prior attempt.

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 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.
• Not exceed the total grade replacement credit limit for an academic career.
  • Undergraduate: Up to 10 credit hours of grade-replacement coursework.
  • Graduate: Up to 6 credit hours of grade-replacement coursework.

Student Requirements

To apply for grade replacement, students must:

• Be an active degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate student at CU Boulder (law and nondegree students are not eligible). Students who have graduated cannot use grade replacement for a course taken in a completed 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.

Invoke Grade Replacement

To request to retake a course for grade replacement, students must:

1. Register for the class for an upcoming semester.
2. Submit the grade replacement request form by the published deadline for the semester/session in which the class is being offered. There are no exceptions for late submissions.

After being reviewed for eligibility, students are notified via email whether their request was approved or denied.

Revoke or Cancel Request

Students who invoke grade replacement, but who no longer wish to retake courses for grade replacement must revoke or cancel their request by the published deadline for the semester/session in which the class is being offered. Once the deadline has passed, requests cannot be revoked or changed. The grade earned in the most recent attempt will be the final grade that calculates in GPA and credit totals, even if it’s lower than the grade earned in the most recent prior attempt.

Additional Information

For more information on course repetition and 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/).

Grade Replacement Policy (effective Spring 2022)

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 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/).