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>Grade 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>Symbol</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; under the pass/fail option, grades of D- and above convert to a P. Other specified courses may also be graded on a pass/fail basis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>no credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>withdrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>***</td>
<td>class grades were not submitted when final grades were processed, or the student is currently enrolled in the course.</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, 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; 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 must indicate this at the time 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.

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 option is only available if the department offering the course allows the pass/fail option. Students who wish 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 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. 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."

Grades of D- and above are considered passing grades. P grades do not affect student GPAs.

**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.

**Repeating Courses**
Students may repeat courses at any point in their academic career without invoking 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 3020, WRTG 3030 and WRTG 3040 are eligible for grade replacement.
- 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 a degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate student at CU Boulder (law and nondegree students are not eligible).
- 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.

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, 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).