

Adams State Institutes the +/- Grading System

Effective Spring 2008, Adams State will be using the +/- grading system for final course grades. Such a system is better able to distinguish between students who, for example, earn 81 percent versus 88 percent of possible course points. This distinction is important to many students, professors, and professional schools. It is up to the individual instructor to decide whether to report plus or minus grades or use straight letter grades. A grade of "D" is still not acceptable for courses fulfilling students' major or minor requirements, but is acceptable for Gen Ed and elective courses. A grade of "C-" earned this semester will be treated the same as a "C" for prerequisites and major/minor course requirements. While a C- is considered passing, it is only worth 1.67 GPA equivalent points. To be in good standing and for graduation, students must maintain an overall minimum GPA of 2.00. The change from the straight letter grading system was approved by a faculty vote during the spring 2007 semester. The grading scale and GPA equivalents are as follows:

A = 4.00
A- = 3.67
B+ = 3.33
B = 3.00
B- = 2.67
C+ = 2.33
C = 2.00
C- = 1.67
D+ = 1.33
D = 1.00
F / TF = 0.00

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please send them to fjnovotn@adams.edu.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Benita Brink, President
Dr. Rob Demski, Arts & Letters Senator
Dr. Randall Engle, Teacher Ed, Counselor Ed, & HPPE Senator
Dr. Christina Miller, Science, Math, & Nursing Senator
Dr. Linda Reid, Business Senator

The preceding letter was sent to all registered students via e-mail on Thursday, February 28th. Given the comments and questions that have been received, some clarifications are in order. The new grading scale is a very common scale that is used at colleges and universities across the United States. It is rare to find institutions using an A+ and the faculty at ASC did not want to create a situation of real or perceived grade inflation that may reflect poorly on our graduates as they pursue admission to graduate or professional programs. This policy was approved by a vote of the faculty in the Spring of 2007. While a student representative from AS&F was present during Faculty Senate discussions of this policy, the students were not included in the vote as it

is standard practice for the faculty of a college/university to set academic policies. There was not sufficient time to implement the new policy by Fall 2008, so the decision was made by the administration to implement it at the beginning of this semester. Some professors or academic departments may have chosen to not include the +/- options in their grading scale. Your course syllabi should include the grading policy. Please consult with your professors if you have any questions regarding their implementation of this new policy.