



Camosun College Grading Policy Change 2007

In May, 2006, Education Council approved a revision to our previous Grading Policy. The revised policy took effect September 2007.

This message is to provide background on the reasons for the revision, the process undertaken, the principles applied and clarity on application of the revised policy.

Research and consultation:

A working group was formed in 2005 to lead a review of our grading policy. Research and consultation included the following:

- a review of grading policies across 12 BC post secondary institutions
- a review of grading policies and practices within approximately 30 UVic departments
- consultation with Camosun students, faculty, Department Chairs, EMT, EMOT, SSMT and Education Council and conferred with our admissions personnel re admission processes for transferring students

Principles applied in developing the revised policy:

The working group developed and was guided by the following principles in putting forward the revised policy to EdCo for approval:

- to advantage students while maintaining academic rigor
- to set A+ = 90% as it is common across the system and would advantage high achieving students in terms of scholarships and admission to other PSE institutions
- to set C = 60%, a BCCAT recommendation
- to have cutoffs at 65%, 70% and 80% (to not disadvantage students in programs requiring better than 60% for a pass)
- to have even percentage point spreads between grades to the degree possible

The prior grading policy was revised, based on these principles, and the revised policy was approved by Education Council. However, *students who received a grade under the old policy will maintain that grade.*

This change to our grading policy benefits many students, particularly those transferring to UVic, our largest receiving institution. However, as with any change, there are some individuals who feel disadvantaged by the change.

To minimize any possible real or perceived disadvantage to students, Student Services distributed information about the change, including details of both the old and the revised policy, to registrars at colleges and universities across Canada, in the calendar and on the web. In addition, the transcript itself is a communication vehicle that continues to outline the change, in detail. The receiving institution is able to see both the letter grade and the numerical grade range equivalent on the transcript and has complete control and jurisdiction over how it handles incoming student data.

Camosun College has an array of programs and programming credentials varying from Certificates to Applied Degrees, from single disciplines within single Schools, to multiple disciplines and multi-School engagement. A single grading system, although challenging in terms of its ability to encompass all circumstances, presents the most appropriate system for the College.

The College will closely monitor the application of the revised policy, in particular with reference to the grade distribution, to ensure we continue to have a fair practice, well communicated and understood by all.

If there any further questions about this policy, please contact the office of the Vice President, Education & Student Services, at (250) 370-4543.

Baldev Pooni, Vice President
Education & Student Services