

Grading, Assessment, and Proficiency Guidelines

1. Students should know what they will be graded upon and how they will be graded by providing rubrics, models, exemplars (for example) for assignments.
2. Proficiency should be agreed upon before the course begins and all students should know at the start of the course what constitutes proficiency by providing students with essential learnings, standards, and course expectations.
3. Be thoughtful about grading—know what you are grading and why. Be certain it is fair.
4. Course grades should reflect proficiency in the subject matter. Grade only the evidence of student performance that pertains to the content.
5. Coursework/homework should be connected to course content and core competencies
6. Grades should provide accurate, rational, and effective communication to the students about proficiency in subject matter only not attitude, behavior, or any other considerations.
7. Time should not be a factor in demonstrating proficiency. Students should all be able to have the time it takes to complete an assessment.
8. Proficiency may be determined by a variety of assessments.
9. Students should have multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency.
10. The appropriate consequence of failing to complete an assignment is completing the assignment for the full value of the assignment.
11. Using grading as punishment is an ineffective strategy. Rather than motivating students, it demotivates them.
12. The greater the mathematical distance between the top grade and the bottom grade, i.e. 100% to 0, the greater the negative effect of a zero on the final grade.
13. The mathematically accurate value of F is 51 per cent, a failing grade. Students who fail to turn in an assignment receive a failing grade, not a punishment.
14. On a five point scale, A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2, E=1, Missing Assignment= 0, the distance between an “A” and a Zero is 5, a distance of 2 from a passing grade. On a 100 point scale, such as percentage, the distance between “A” and Zero is 100, a distance of 60 from a passing grade.