

The School of Graduate Studies proposes the following change in graduate policy:

FROM

Grading System. Students may earn regular grades of **A, AB, B, BC, C, D, and F** in graduate courses. Grading is based upon a 4.00 system: each term unit of **A** is assigned four grade points, each term unit of **AB** is assigned **3.5** grade points, each term unit of **B** is assigned three grade points, etc. Students' degree grade point averages and their grade point averages in a major or emphasis area are calculated upon the graduate course work attempted at UW-Whitewater. Students' overall UW-Whitewater grade point averages (shown on transcripts) are calculated solely upon all the graduate course work attempted at UW-Whitewater.

TO

Grading System. Students may earn regular grades of **A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, and F** in graduate courses. The letter grades and their associated grade points, are as follows:

- A (4.000)
- A- (3.670)
- B+ (3.330)
- B (3.000)
- B- (2.670)
- C+ (2.330)
- C (2.000)
- C- (1.670)
- D+ (1.330)
- D (1.000)
- D- (0.670)
- F (0.000)

Students' degree grade point averages and their grade point averages in a major or emphasis area are calculated upon the graduate course work attempted at UW-Whitewater. Students' overall UW-Whitewater grade point averages (shown on transcripts) are calculated solely upon all the graduate course work attempted at UW-Whitewater.

Rationale for Changing the Graduate Grading Scale

- Adoption of a plus/minus grading scale would allow for greater discrimination (and accuracy) in reporting the academic performance of graduate students. (I understand that this may not be desirable.)

- It would alleviate ambiguity and confusion for both students and instructors in those instances where graduate students enroll in courses at undergraduate-levels (typically, to address content-level deficiencies, or to complete licensure classes).
- Since UW-W graduate and undergraduate grading scales first separated in 1991, they have never been closer to being reconciled as they are now. The undergraduate grading system has evolved recently to accommodate more nuanced evaluations that full letter grades.
- It is common (normal?) to have the same grading scales at the graduate and undergraduate levels. UW-Stout and UW-River Falls are currently the only other UW System school that don't employ the same grading scale at the graduate and undergraduate levels.
- Many graduate programs in the UW System currently use a plus/minus system. See the summary of grading schemes used in graduate programming below in Table 1.

Grading Scheme	Used By...
A = 4 A- = 3.67 B+ = 3.33 B = 3 B- = 2.67 C+ = 2.33 C = 2 C- = 1.67 D+ = 1.33 D = 1 D- = .67 F = 0	UW- Eau Claire UW-Milwaukee UW-Oshkosh* UW-Parkside UW-River Falls** UW- Stevens Point UW-Superior *Oshkosh will eliminate in fall 2009 any grading option below a "C" (except for "F") in all graduate courses. **River Falls offers no grading option below C- (except for "F") in all graduate courses.
A = 4.0 AB = 3.5 B = 3.0 BC = 2.5 C = 2.0 D = 1.0 F = 0.0	UW-Green Bay UW-La Crosse UW-Madison
A = 4 A- = 3.67 B+ = 3.33	UW-Stout

B = 3 B- = 2.67 C+ = 2.33 C = 2 D = 1 F = 0	
A= 4.0 B= 3.0 C= 2.0 D = 1.0 F= 0.0	UW-Platteville* *Platteville faculty voted in Oct 08 to move to +/- system. Outcome unknown.

Table 1. **SUMMARY OF OTHER UW-SYSTEM GRADUATE-LEVEL GRADING SCHEMES**

Current Grading Schemes at UW-Whitewater

UW-W Graduate Grading Scale (current)	UW-W Undergraduate Grading Scale (current)
A (4.000)	A (4.000)
AB (3.500)	A- (3.670)
B (3.000)	B+ (3.330)
BC (2.500)	B (3.000)
C (2.000)	B- (2.670)
D (1.000)	C+ (2.330)
F (0.000)	C (2.000)
	C- (1.670)
	D+ (1.330)
	D (1.000)
	D- (0.670)
	F (0.000)