Interpreting Grades

What is your instructor trying to tell you?

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What are we going talk about?

- How to communicate with your Prof or Ta
- How to interpret grades at the U of T
- The GPA: What is it, what does it mean, and how do you calculate it?
- Examples and Strategies
- Thinking about POSs: What’s right for me?
- Status
- Changing Directions—Looking at Options
How should you discuss academic matters with your instructors?
Grade Point Average (GPA)

- Grades on the U of T academic transcript are presented as a percentage, a letter grade, and a corresponding Grade Point Average.
- FAS uses a GPA scale of 0 – 4.0
- Sessional GPA is based on courses taken in a single term (Fall, Winter, Summer)
- Annual GPA is based on courses taken in the fall/winter sessions
- Cumulative GPA is based on all course attempts in FAS.
Calculating GPA

Example 1:

- POL101Y1: C+ 68 2.3
- ECO100Y1: C- 60 1.7
- SPA100Y1: B- 72 2.7
- HIS103Y1: B 75 3.0
- SOC101Y1: C 65 2.0

11.7 divided by 5.0 = 2.34
## Calculating GPA

### Example 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO120H1</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>(1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT137Y1</td>
<td>C−</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM138H1</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY100H1</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>(1.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGR124H1</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>(1.65)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.85 divided by 3.0 = 1.95
Strategies to Boost your GPA

- Reduce course load by academic drop date (especially if you are attempting to complete 6.0 F.C.E.)
- LWD
- CR/NCR
- Make use of all available academic supports (i.e. Academic Writing Centre, Math Lab, study groups, advisors in the Registrar’s office, visit your Profs/TAs during their office hours, etc.)
Calculating GPA

Example 2 Reconsidered

- BIO120H1  B  73  3.0 (1.5)
- MAT137Y1  C–  60  1.7
- CHM138H1  LWD
- PSY100H1  C  63  2.0 (1.0)
- GGR124H1  B+  78  3.3 (1.65)

5.85 divided by 2.5 = 2.34
Grades: Things to Consider

- The average grade in a course at U of T is in the 65–70% range (2.0–2.7 GPA)
- Where are you in relation to the class average?
- How much are the various tests and assignments worth?
- How much time are you studying (1:3)?
- Are you studying effectively?
Assessment of “STATUS”

- After you have completed at least one course
- You are either in “Good Standing” GPA => 1.5 or better
- OR
- You are on “Academic Probation” GPA => less than 1.5. Probation is a warning that you need to approach your studies differently; Seek advice.
- The advisors in the Registrar’s office can help you analyze the problem and offer a variety of solutions (i.e. financial assistance rather than working too many hours, time management and organizational tips, etc.)
Applying for your Subject POSSts

- There are 3 types of POSSts:
  - Type 1 accepts all students who have 4.0 FCE
  - Type 2 & 3 require specific courses in first year with minimum grades
  - Check the Calendar to see what grades you need to get invited to your desired POSSts
  - If you do not get invited, what options do you have? Repeating courses? Related POSSts?
QUESTIONS ??

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