

**PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

EXAMINATION AND GRADING RULES

Grading and Mark Distribution

Upper Year Courses

1. In all courses having an enrollment of 50 or more the average shall be in the 70-74.0000% range.
2. In all courses having an enrollment of 40 or more, but fewer than 50, the average shall be in the 70-75.0000% range.
3. In all courses having an enrollment of 21 or more, but fewer than 40, the average shall be in the 70-76.0000% range.
4. In all courses having an enrollment of fewer than 21 (and which are not taught in multiple sections) the average shall be in the 70-79.0000% range.
5. All upper-year courses taught in multiple sections in an academic year, which runs from September through August, shall apply the same average to each section. The average shall be determined on the last day of class in the fall term based on the largest section of the course in any term during that Winter Session. For example, if on the last day of fall classes, a course has one spring term section with 65 registered students and one fall term section with 14 registered students, then each section must have an average between 70 – 74.0000% (even if the spring term section's registration subsequently changes).

First-Year Courses

6. The First Year December examinations are subject to a requirement that the average marks for each class fall within a specified range of averages being 65%-75.0000%
7. The First Year Assignments and April examinations are subject to a requirement that the average marks for each class fall within a specified range being 70-75.0000%.
8. All sections of a first-year course will contain the same grading components, and each component across sections must be worth the same amount.
9. For Full-Year First Year Law Courses with a December practice exam and an April final exam:

If the December Exam Mark is less than or equal to the April Exam Mark, then the April Exam mark equals the Overall Exam Mark. Otherwise, if the December Exam Mark is greater than the April Exam Mark, then 25% of the December Exam Mark plus 75% of the April Exam Mark equals the Overall Exam Mark.

If there is a Legal Writing Component for the course, then the Overall Exam Mark plus the LRW Mark = the Final Mark in the Course.

First-Year and Upper-Year Courses

10. Faculty members are encouraged to achieve the following distribution of cumulative overall averages.

Assigned Mark	Required Letter Grade	Suggested Word Description	Suggested % W/I Categories
90> 85-89 80-84	A+ A A-	Excellent (87.5)	10-15
76-79 72-75 68-71	B+ B B-	Good (73.5)	50-60
64-67 60-63 55-59	C+ C C-	Satisfactory (61.5)	20-30
50-54	D	Barely Adequate (52)	5-10
0-49	F	Fail	1-5 1 st Year 0-3 2 nd & 3 rd Years

11. An instructor wishing to award a grade in excess of 90% must provide justification to the Academic Procedures Committee. If not satisfied, the Committee may take such action as it considers appropriate, including a re-read by a different instructor or a lowering of the grade.
12. An instructor may apply to the Academic Procedures Committee for variance from the rules concerning averages.

Miscellaneous Rules

1. Use of questions used on previous examinations on file in the law library and on the library web site is strongly discouraged for fairness reasons. Old examinations are available to students and some may have studied from an old exam.
2. For courses listed in the University Calendar as capable of being offered on a pass-fail basis, instructors wishing to grade on a pass-fail basis must obtain the approval of the Associate Dean at least one week prior to student registration in the course. If the change is approved, the Director of Student Academic Services must submit a request to the Academic Governance Office in the Senate and Curriculum Services office to have the change recorded in the UBC Faculty Course Management System.
3. If an instructor determines that an assigned standing (e.g. grade) is in error, the instructor may revise the assigned standing, subject to approval by the Associate Dean, Academic (JD students) or the Associate Dean Graduate Studies (graduate students). Revisions will normally be approved where they result from arithmetic errors.
4. Instructors are required to discuss the examination papers and other assignments with students for pedagogical purposes only. A student who, after meeting with their instructor, believes that some or all of the material contributing to the assigned standing has been incorrectly evaluated, should review the law school's [Review of Assigned Standing](#) rules and may apply for such review through Enrolment Services.

5. All scheduled examinations are mandatory.