

Grading Explanation – Class of 2013 to Present

[updated: May 29, 2013]

Grading System Change:

In December 2012, the Washington University School of Law Faculty changed the grading system from number grades (70-100) to letter grades (A, B, etc), along with changing GPAs to a 4.0 scale - based on number grades (from 2.50 – 4.30) that continue to allow the Faculty to distinguish between students' scores to a greater degree than the systems at most other Law Schools – see the Conversion Scale below. Although the new grades and GPAs did not appear on students' records until May 30, 2013, students were notified of their new 4.0 scale GPAs after the Fall 2012 semester and were given permission to post those on their resumes and communicate those to employers, along with the corresponding letter grades that now show on their official records. Note: the highest allowable GPA is 4.0.

Grading Scale: 4.30 – 2.50 (formerly 100 - 70), translated to letter grades of A+ - F, per the conversion scale below.

Conversion Scale:

A+	=	4.30 – 4.00	(100 – 95)
A	=	3.94 – 3.76	(94 – 91)
A-	=	3.70 – 3.58	(90 – 88)
B+	=	3.52 – 3.34	(87 – 84)
B	=	3.28 – 3.16	(83 - 81)
B-	=	3.10 – 3.04	(80 – 79)
C+	=	2.98 – 2.92	(78 – 77)
C	=	2.86 – 2.80	(76 – 75)
D	=	2.74	(74)
F	=	2.68 – 2.50	(73 – 70)

Percentile Cut-offs and Rankings:

J.D. Program: The following percentile cut-offs are reported at the end of the fall and spring semesters: 1%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25% and 33 1/3% (top third). Only J.D. students in the top 5% are informed of their exact ranks.

LL.M., J.S.D., and M.J.S. Programs: Students are not ranked and no percentile cut-offs are reported.

Minimum Passing Grades and GPAs:

J.D. Program: A grade of 2.74 (D) or better is necessary to earn credit in a course. A grade point average of 3.00 at the end of each school year (and for the 2L year) is necessary to remain in good standing and to graduate.

LL.M. in Taxation: A grade of 3.04 (B-) or better is necessary to earn credit in a course. There is no minimum grade point average requirement.

LL.M. in Intellectual Property and Technology Law: A grade of **2.74** (D) or better is necessary to earn credit in a course. A grade point average of **3.00** is necessary to graduate.

LL.M. in U.S. Law: A grade of **2.74** (D) or better is necessary to earn credit in a course. There is no minimum grade point average requirement.

J.S.D.: A grade of **2.74** (D) or better is necessary to earn credit in a course. There is no minimum grade point average requirement. [J.S.D. students commonly audit courses and do not have a minimum # of required units to complete, but are required to complete a dissertation of publishable quality.]

M.J.S.: A grade of **2.74** (D) or better is necessary to earn credit in a course. There is no minimum grade point average requirement.

Additional Grade Codes:

HP94 or HP	-	High Pass
P	-	Pass
LP78 or LP	-	Low Pass
AUD	-	Audit
PW	-	Permitted to withdraw
RW	-	Required to withdraw
N	-	Grade not recorded
I	-	Incomplete
CR or CR#	-	Credit
NCR or NCR#	-	No Credit
CIP	-	Course in Progress
IP	-	In Progress
RX	-	Re-examined in course
R	-	Course Repeated

Full-Time Minimums: For students enrolled in the J.D., LL.M. in Taxation, LL.M. in Intellectual Property & Technology Law and M.J.S. programs, the full time course load is a minimum of 12 units per semester. For students enrolled in the LL.M. in U.S. Law (Master of Laws) program and for Exchange Students, the full time course load is a minimum of 8 units per semester.

Notations:

Academic Probation -- Placed on academic probation - as a result of having a cum GPA between 2.98 – 2.99 (formerly 78.50 - 78.99) at the end of an entire school year, or a yearly GPA between 2.98 – 2.99 (formerly 78.50 - 78.99) at the end of the 2L year.

Academic Dismissal/Termination -- Not eligible to continue due to poor scholarship - as a result of having a cum GPA of less than 2.98 (formerly 78.50) at the end of an entire school year, or a yearly GPA below 2.98 (formerly 78.50) at the end of the 2L year. Student may petition for readmission.

Disciplinary Probation -- Probationary status resulting from a violation of the Honor Code

Suspension -- Student is denied permission to continue at the School of Law for a specific period of time due to violation of the Honor Code.

Readmitted -- Readmitted by faculty action or by re-examination

Expulsion -- Student is permanently denied permission to continue at the School of Law due to violation of the Honor Code