Credit for Non-collegiate Programs

USC Upstate will consider credit awarded for non-collegiate educational programs as recommended by the American Council on Education. Documentation is required. Final determination is made by the dean of the college or school in which the student is enrolled.

Grading System

Grade Symbols

The grading system outlined below is in effect for all students at the University. Under this system, undergraduate course credit is granted only for earned grades of A, B+, B, C+, C, D+, D or S. Any of the following symbols (except NR) become a permanent part of a student's academic record when assigned.

A, B, C, D and F carry the traditional academic connotations of excellent, good, average, poor and failing performance, respectively.

S and U indicate, respectively, satisfactory (passing) and unsatisfactory (failing) performance in courses carried on a pass-fail basis, as indicated in the course description, or in courses for which the pass-fail option is elected under the conditions detailed in the section entitled Pass-Fail Option. The grades of S and U do not enter into the calculation of the GPA nor are they used in evaluating probation or suspension.

W is assigned for withdrawals after late registration through the last day to withdraw without penalty. W may be assigned, in exceptional cases, to indicate satisfactory performance in courses from which students withdraw after the last day to withdraw without penalty. The grade is used primarily in cases of withdrawal from the University or course withdrawal for medical reasons or other extenuating circumstances. See the catalog section on "Changes of Registration" for an explanation of the procedures necessary for the assignment of this grade. A grade of W is not used in the evaluation of probation or suspension conditions or GPA computation.

WF is assigned for withdrawal from a course after the last day to withdraw without penalty and is treated as F in the computation of GPA and in the evaluation of probation and suspension conditions.

"I," incomplete, is assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, in the faculty member's judgment, a student is faced with a significant disruption in his or her ability to complete some portion of the assigned work in a course. The grade of "I" cannot be used to give students additional time to complete course assignments unless there is strong, clear evidence that stated conditions or events prevented the student from submitting course assignments when they were due. The faculty member must transmit the prescribed on-line "Incomplete Justification Form" as part of grade submission. The student can access this information on VIP. By arrangement with the instructor and according to the conditions on the required form entered by the instructor, the student may have from one week up to 12 months from the date the "I" was given—no case can this be longer than 12 months—to complete and submit the work. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure all arrangements for removal of the "Incomplete" have been made and that all work to rectify the "Incomplete" has been accomplished. If the instructor of record is no longer at USC Upstate, the student should, within the time specified on the incomplete grade form, transmit copies of all necessary materials to the instructor by certified return receipt mail. If the instructor fails to assign a grade within three months of the date of the request, if no forwarding address is available, the dean of the appropriate school or chair of the appropriate department/division shall appoint a faculty member to consider the request and assign a grade. When all required work has been completed and received, the instructor may initiate the appropriate "Make-up Grade for Incomplete" form and file it with the Records Office. If the student does not complete the necessary work by the agreed upon and stated deadline, the faculty member can submit a permanent grade change at that time. Automatically at the next year, the "I" will convert to an "F" or to a back-up grade if so designated by the instructor. The changing of an "I" to a letter grade requires notification and processing at various administrative levels. It may take several weeks before the letter grade and credits earned appear on the student's transcript, and in some cases, may delay approval for graduation. The grade of "I" does not affect the computation of GPA until a permanent grade is assigned. Students who receive an "I" must register for the same course or can they later withdraw from the course.

AUD indicates the student was enrolled in a course on an audit basis.

NR, no record, is assigned by an instructor to indicate a registration or attendance problem. It is a temporary mark on the transcript and must be replaced by a grade. An NR is changed to a grade of F after one semester if no other grade can be obtained from the instructor by the appropriate dean.

Grade Point Average

The grade point average is computed on the basis of all semester hours attempted for credit within the University of South Carolina, except for hours carried on a pass-fail basis. The GPA is not affected by courses taken on a non-credit or audit basis.

The grade points earned in courses carried with a passing grade are computed by multiplying the number of semester hour credits assigned to the course by a factor determined by the grade. For courses in which the grade of A is earned, the factor is 4; for B+, 3.5; for B, 3; for C+, 2.5; for C, 2; for D+, 1.5 and for D, 1. The grade point average is determined by dividing the sum total of all grade points by the total number of hours attempted for credit (excluding hours carried on a pass-fail basis). No grade points are assigned to the symbols F, S, U, WF, W, I, AUD or NR.

Grade Reports

At the end of each semester, students may access final grades through VIP on the USC Upstate Web page.