

Policy and Procedure Arizona State University		Number SWK 310
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Subject Meaning of Grades	Effective 8/18/86	Revised 11/92

PURPOSE: To Explain the Meaning of Grades

SOURCES: School of Social Work Faculty Council

APPLICABILITY: All faculty and students, School of Social Work

POLICY: Meaning of Grades

A. Final Grades

1. It is the policy of the School that a grade entered on a student's official record shall have only one meaning: It is a measurement of the level of the student's performance relative to course requirements.

2. There are many aspects of performance that grades do not measure, such as effort, sincerity and motivation. Similarly, the grade does not reflect the conditions of learning, such as class size, quality of instruction and distracting circumstances. The grade assesses the actual performance regardless of special advantages or disadvantages. A consequence can be that some students with limited preparation or aptitude may work very hard and show great progress without meeting requirements, and therefore receive unsatisfactory grades. Others may show less progress but still meet the requirements. Instructors should keep students informed of their progress, but teachers are expected to assign grades only on the basis of how well students meet or exceed common course standards as established in sequences and specified in syllabi. Any changes during the semester in the basis for grading should be circulated to all students in the class in writing.

B. Mid-Term Grade Reports

1. Each instructor fills out mid-term grade sheets indicating the status of all students, at that point in the semester period. An explanatory paragraph must be provided for any MSW student receiving a C mark or lower, and any Undergraduate student receiving a D mark or lower. This paragraph is shared with the student and the advisor.

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2. A student's performance sometimes drops to C/D or below after the mid-semester evaluation period. The instructor in such instances should send a grade report to the student and the advisor as soon as the difficulty is noted so that a remedial plan may be developed.