



### **Grade Normalization Policy**

1. Grades shall be within a range, in intervals of .25 grade points, from a maximum of 4.0 to a minimum of 0.75, for credit. A failing grade of 0.00 will result in the student receiving no credit.
2. All classes that are part of the standard two-semester, first-year curriculum [currently Civil Procedure, Contracts I and II, Real Property I and II, Research and Writing I and II, Torts, Constitutional Law I, and Criminal Law] shall be graded based on an average (mean) grade between 2.70 and 2.90, absent extraordinary circumstances and express approval of the Associate Dean of Academics. The range of grades available is intended to allow professors wishing to do so to recognize differences in overall performance levels of different classes. This range should also accommodate the typical variations in class performance arising out of smaller classes that do not represent an average sampling of students. On the other hand, professors that prefer to focus their grading on relative ranking of students around a common mean may want to adhere as closely as possible to an average grade of 2.8.
3. Except as addressed in subparagraphs a and b below, all classes that are not a part of the standard two-semester, first-year curriculum (i.e., those not addressed by paragraph 2) shall be graded based on an average (mean) grade between 2.75 and 3.05, absent extraordinary circumstances and express approval of the Associate Dean of Academics. The range of grades available is intended to allow professors wishing to do so to recognize differences in overall performance levels of different classes. This range should also accommodate the typical variations in class performance arising out of smaller classes that do not represent an average sampling of students. On the other hand, professors that prefer to focus their grading on relative ranking of students around a common mean may want to adhere as closely as possible to an average grade of 2.9.
  - a. All classes that satisfy the College of Law skills requirement [currently Trial Advocacy; Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation; Pretrial Practice; and Appellate Practice] for graduation and are graded on a numeric basis, and all seminar classes that satisfy the College of Law writing requirement, shall be each graded based on an average (mean) grade between 2.90 and 3.25, absent extraordinary circumstances and express approval of the Associate Dean.

- b. The policy in paragraph 3 applies only to classes for which a numeric grade is given. In classes in which a non-numeric grade is given, the grade will not be used to calculate the student's grade point average or class rank.
4. Any grades submitted that do not conform to this policy shall be returned to the professor to be recalculated. If the grades are not recalculated by the professor in accordance with this policy, then the original grades will be adjusted (i.e., re-curved) by the Associate Dean to conform to the policy.

*Adopted by faculty effective Spring 2004; format update January 2009. This policy has no further applicability after Summer 2009.*