

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL GRADING POLICY FOR UPPER-YEAR OFFERINGS ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

Pursuant to CLS faculty resolution, instructors are expected to broadly adhere to past grading practice. To assist instructors in following this principle, the Office of Registration Services calculates the average grade distributions for the last five years in order to provide up-to-date guidelines. The 2025-2026 guidelines are as follows:

| | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | Other Available Grades: B-, C, F |
|--|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|
| UPPERYEAR COURSES & 1L ELECTIVES | 1.05% | 23.08% | 30.32% | 31.01% | 13.45% | Assigned as earned |
| UPPERYEAR SEMINARS, CLINICS, EXTERNSHIPS, SIMULATIONS, COLLOQUIA, PRACTICA | 3.24% | 43.75% | 36.28% | 14.13% | 2.10% | Assigned as earned |

Although these are not fixed curves, faculty are asked to try to bring grading roughly into conformity with our past practice. Instructors wishing to submit grades that deviate substantially from that practice may be asked to provide an explanation for the deviation.

Please note:

Grade of A+: The Faculty has resolved to limit the A+ grade to not more than one per course or seminar. This grade should be used sparingly and only for truly extraordinary performance. It should not be used automatically for the top performance in the class if that performance is not extraordinary.

Grades of B-, C, and F: In recent years, approximately 0.82% of upper-year course grades and approximately 0.28% of seminar grades awarded were B- (B minus). In addition, approximately 0.27% of course grades and approximately 0.20% of seminar grades awarded were C or below. Instructors are not required to award these grades.

Office of Registration Services
December 2025