V. Grades / Average

A. Grades

The letter grades used in the calculation of grade-point average (GPA) are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent. Four quality points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good. Three quality points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory. Two quality points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Passing. One quality point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure. No quality points. If the course is required, the student must repeat it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guiding principles for the determination of grades:

- The grading system an instructor uses, including relative weighting of different types of grading instruments (e.g., % for homework, % for quizzes) must be communicated to students in the course syllabus and aligned with the course objectives, teaching activities, assignments, and assessments. For guidance on specific approaches to grading, see the Center for Teaching and Learning website (https://ctl.gatech.edu/grading).
- Students should be able to easily translate their scores on assignments to their course letter grade. The criteria for final grades should be clearly indicated on the syllabus. For example, A grade of “A” corresponds to a percentage grade of __% or above on graded assignments, a grade of “B” corresponds to a percentage grade of __-%_%, etc.
- Students must be graded against a set of standards, not solely on their performance relative to their classmates.
- The grading process and scoring methods should be clear and provide students with meaningful feedback throughout the term, allowing students to reasonably predict progress towards their final grade as the semester advances.
- It is the responsibility of the instructor to design assignments and scoring criteria that are consistent with the published grading scheme. Grade adjustments may be made to increase, not lower, students’ grades.

The following grades are used under special conditions and are not included in the calculation of grade-point average (GPA):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>No credit earned. The &quot;V&quot; grade is used when a student audits a course.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following grades are used in the cases indicated and are not be included in the calculation of grade-point average (GPA):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Withdrawal without Penalty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Not Reported. The &quot;NR&quot; grade is used when, by no fault of the student, the instructors fails to submit grades before the deadline.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Incomplete. The "I" grade is used when, for reasons beyond her/his control and deemed acceptable by the instructor, a student whose academic performance had been satisfactory becomes unable to fulfill a course’s requirements. If the student’s academic performance had been so poor as to preclude her/his passing, the instructor shall assign the grade of "F". Regulation VII., “Deficiencies,” outlines the removal of the "I" grade. See the Registrar’s Office website for more guidance on the use of the Incomplete grade under Incomplete grade page under the Faculty section.
The academic average includes all subsequent attempts, unless a grade is included in the average, but the credit is counted only once. The student should fail the course on a subsequent attempt. If a student takes the same course more than once, any later grade does not replace any earlier one. The academic average includes both attempts, unless a grade substitution has been approved and processed.

For undergraduate students, the academic average is calculated by summing the number of quality points earned by the student for all courses in which they have enrolled as an undergraduate and dividing this sum by the number of credit hours designated to all courses in which they have enrolled as an undergraduate.

For graduate students, the academic average includes only the courses in which the student has enrolled after her/his entrance into the graduate division.

C. Grade Substitution for Undergraduate Students

Undergraduate students may repeat courses for grade substitution according to the following set of criteria. If these conditions are not met, the general policy governing repeated courses applies.

1. Undergraduate students may repeat for grade substitution up to two GT courses with posted letter grades of D or F. These courses will be excluded from calculation of their cumulative grade point average.

2. A course can be taken for grade substitution only once and must be repeated within one calendar year. Students who completed the Georgia Tech course prior to matriculating as first-year, degree-seeking undergraduates (e.g., joint/dual enrollment or in a non-degree seeking status) have one calendar year from their matriculation date to repeat the course.

3. A course is not eligible for grade substitution if the student was found responsible for any academic misconduct in that course regardless of how many times it is repeated.

4. Grades excluded under previous Institute rules (such as the Grade Substitution policy that was in effect up until 2019) count toward the maximum two courses allowed for substitution.

5. Once a grade substitution is posted, the student cannot remove the exclusion or change it to another course at a later date. A student seeking status) have one calendar year from their matriculation date to repeat the course.

6. The application for grade substitution must be filed with the Registrar’s Office no later than the deadline for withdrawing from a course during the student’s next term of enrollment after the course is repeated.

7. Students should not submit the form during the term they are repeating the course.

The original grade and the repeated grades will all appear on the official transcript. Once a grade substitution is applied to a course, the credit hours attempted and earned on the course will be removed from the calculation of the cumulative grade point. Excluded courses and hours will continue to be counted in calculations of satisfactory progress, for financial aid eligibility, and for tuition.

Students should be aware that many graduate and professional schools recalculate grade point averages in the process of considering an applicant for admission to such programs. This recalculation may include restoring the grades of the repeated classes and their effects on the cumulative grade point average.
The grade substitution policy (including, but not limited to, course eligibility, number of courses, time limits, and deadlines) is not subject to exceptions and may not be petitioned to the Undergraduate Institute Curriculum Committee.

Download Form

Frequently Asked Questions about the Undergraduate Grade Substitution Policy

D. Grade Substitution for Graduate Students

Graduate students may repeat a course for grade substitution according to the following set of criteria. If these conditions are not met, the general policy governing repeated courses applies.

1. Graduate students may repeat for grade substitution one GT course with posted letter grades of C, D or F. The course will be excluded from calculation of their cumulative grade point average.

2. The one-substitution limit holds during the entirety of their time as a graduate student regardless of the number of degree programs that they might enroll in.

3. A course can be taken for grade substitution only once. Since not all graduate-level courses are offered each term, the student should consult with their academic advisor about planning to retake the course. Due to course scheduling constraints, some courses may not be Repeatable in a timely fashion. This assumes the course is offered again in a future term.

4. A course is not eligible for grade substitution if the student was found responsible for any academic misconduct in that course regardless of how many times it is repeated.

5. Once a grade substitution is posted, the student cannot remove the exclusion or change it to another course at a later date. A student cannot request a grade substitution after they have graduated.

6. The application for grade substitution must be filed with the Registrar’s Office no later than the deadline for withdrawing from a course during the student’s next term of enrollment after the course is repeated.

7. Students cannot submit the form until after the course is repeated.

8. The original grade and the repeated grade will all appear on the official transcript. Once a grade substitution is applied to a course, the credit hours attempted and earned on the course will be removed from the calculation of the cumulative grade point. The excluded course and hours will continue to be counted in calculations of satisfactory progress, for financial aid eligibility, and for tuition.

9. This policy cannot be used to extend the applicable dates of an I-20 or other type of visa.

The grade substitution policy (including, but not limited to, course eligibility, time limit, and deadline) is not subject to exceptions and may not be petitioned to the Institute Graduate Curriculum Committee.

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Applying for Graduate Grade Substitution