ALBANY LAW SCHOOL

EXPLANATION OF GRADING SYSTEM
LETTER GRADES AND NUMERICAL EQUIVALENTS

Professors evaluate student work by written examination, except where such examination is inappropriate, such as in seminar, practice court or workshop, and legal research and writing courses. Some professors count classroom participation in assigning final course grades.

Grade definitions include:

A:	EXCELLENT-	Demonstrating superior ability in the fulfillment of course requirements.
B:	GOOD-	Demonstrating skill and proficiency in the fulfillment of course requirements.
C:	SATISFACTORY-	Demonstrating basic competence in the fulfillment of course requirements.
D:	PASS-	Demonstrating minimal competence in the fulfillment of course requirements.
F:	FAILURE-	Failing to demonstrate competence in the fulfillment of course requirements.

Within each of the above categories (except "Failure") pluses and minuses may be added to differentiate levels of accomplishment within a category.

Grades are scaled as follows:

Letter Grades	Numerical Equivalents		Minimum grade required to attain *	
A+	4.3		Top 10%	3.83
A	4.0		Top 25%	3.52
A-	3.7		Top 33%	3.41
B+	3.3		Top 50%	3.23
B	3.0		Top 75%	2.93
B-	2.7		Minimum grade required for graduation	2.25
C+	2.3		* based on May 2021 graduating class	
C	2.0			
C-	1.7			
D+	1.30			
D	1.0			
D-	0.7			
F	0.0			

Effective January 2013, elective pass/fail is an option with professor approval.
Effective spring 2021, students are allowed up to two courses (up to 8 credits) of electives pass/fail with professor approval.

CLASS RANK INFORMATION/GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Albany Law School students are ranked by their grade point averages in relation to other members of their class. Usually, more than half of the members of a graduating class have cumulative grade point averages in the 2.99 to 2.30 range. One consequence of this "bunching in the middle" is that significant differences in class ranks may reflect insignificant differences in corresponding grade point averages.

The following lists show the cumulative grade-point averages (G.P.A.) and corresponding class ranks (Rank) for the Classes of 2022 and 2023 in descending order, in increments of approximately 10.

Class of 2022		0	Class of 2023	
G.P.A.	**RANK**		**G.P.A.**	**RANK**
4.19	1		4.14	1
3.92	9		3.89	9
3.74	19		3.81	19
3.64	29		3.60	29
3.58	39		3.44	39
3.47	51		3.47	51
3.38	62		3.24	62
3.28	74		3.10	74
3.20	84		2.98	84
3.15	94		2.89	96
3.09	106		2.80	106
3.01	119		2.65	119
2.93	130		2.49	130
2.81	140		2.37	140
2.71	150			
2.54	160			

Please Note: Albany Law School has a grade scale that includes the grade of A+, which has higher quality point associated to it than the A grade. As such, when students receive grades of A+ it raises their cumulative GPA above the 4.00 GPA mark. When ranking occurs for a class year that has multiple students with a cumulative GPA above 4.00, it creates an environment where the top 10 percent of students in that class have a cumulative GPA in the 3.70's. In these cases, employers may want to look at the top 15 percent of the class to reach the 3.60 mark, which is closer to the top 10 percent when the highest cumulative GPA is a 4.00.

FACULTY POLICY ON UNIFORM GRADING

First-Year Courses:

All courses given in the first year of study shall be graded according to a uniform policy. Each professor shall award grades in his or her section so that the median GPA of those grades is a 2.70, with a presumptive distribution of grades as follows:

Presumptive Distribution*
A's – 20 - 25%
B's – 45 – 50 %
C's – 20- 25%
F's – 0 -15%
*The percentages assume that the grades in each letter category are divided equally among Letter+, Letter, and Letter-.

Upper-class Courses:

Each instructor of a multiple-section course, except the first-year required courses, shall award grades in his or her course or section so that the median GPA in that course or section shall be between 3.0.

The Dean or Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall have the power to dispense with the application of this uniform policy when equity, fairness, and the purposes underlying the policy seem to so require.

For both first-year and upper-class courses, adjustments to establish the proper mean should be made before the grades are initially submitted on the anonymous number grade sheets to the Registrar's Office. If grades may be raised for class performance, however, the mean of the grades initially submitted must be low enough to accommodate grade changes without causing a deviation from the uniform mean.

EFFECTIVE WITH THE CLASS OF 2021:
> A student who receives a grade of D+, D, or D- in any required course is not eligible for graduation until the course is either retaken or an upper division course that covers and reinforces the same subject matter is taken and passed with a grade of C- or higher. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in consultation with the Academic Affairs Committee will create a list of courses that qualify as the upper level "match" that will satisfy this requirement and publish the list on an annual basis.
> **For purposes of this rule, required courses are all courses in the first-year curriculum, Constitutional Law II, Evidence, and Legal Profession or Professional Responsibility Seminar.**

a. The appropriate section for any repeated work will be subject to administrative approval.

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