

Grading (C1d.v02)

The following policy is intended to provide clarity to instructors, students, and learning coaches on the criteria NDCDE uses for evaluating student performance and aims to assign a designation to a student that accurately represents their learning gains as a result of taking a NDCDE course. It furthermore establishes the criteria NDCDE will use to determine grades as it transitions to competency-based education.

Criteria Used to Compute Grades

The following may be included when determining student grades: course assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, presentations, and applied demonstrations of skills. NDCDE courses are currently designed to weight these assessment and evaluation methods to help certify the extent to which students have achieved all the outcomes/standards they are intended to measure overall. NDCDE teachers are encouraged to notify the director of curriculum when they believe that grade weighting needs adjustment to place more emphasis on certain types of assessments or other methods of evaluating students. To ensure uniformity in grading, instructors are prohibited from adjusting grade book weighting without the approval of the director of curriculum.

As NDCDE transitions to competency-based education, each area measured on these assessments will be aligned to course standards and the frequency and level at which students perform in relation to each standard evaluated will be used to determine their proficiency in each standard based on a proficiency scale outlined in rubrics developed for each standard.

Grading Scale

NDCDE students will receive an overall grade intended to represent their summative level of learning in a course, using the following scale. In courses where NDCDE has transitioned to competency-based education, the letter grade will be computed using the competency-based education crosswalk outline below.

Letter Grade	Points	Percent Grade	Average Overall Competency Level in all Standards
A	4.0	93-100%	3.7-4.0
A-	3.666	90-92%	3.5-3.69
B+	3.333	87-89%	3.3-3.49
B	3.0	83-86%	3.0-3.29
B-	2.666	80-82%	2.5-2.9
C+	2.333	77-79%	2.25-2.49
C	2.0	73-76%	2.0-2.24
C-	1.666	70-72%	1.7-1.9
D+	1.333	67-69%	1.5-1.69

D	1.0	63-66%	1.25-1.49
D-	0.666	60-62%	1.0-1.24
F	0.0	Less than 60%	Under 1.0
Withdrawal (passing or failing)	0.0		

Competency-Based Scale

Competency Level	Description
4	Mastery
3	Proficient
2	Developing
1	Beginning

Rounding

Instructors are encouraged to round to the nearest whole percentage when determining letter grades. If an instructor chooses not to round, s/he shall document the reasons why in the student information system, which must be related to evidence that a student has not earned the higher grade based on their level of performance/proficiency in course-essential standards.

Incomplete Grades

At the student's end date, if a hold or extension has not been requested and approved, s/he will receive a zero for any work not completed, which will be factored into the student's final letter grade. In courses that have transitioned to competency-based education, the student will still receive information on their level of proficiency in all areas the instructor was able to measure based on the work submitted.

Course Retakes

When a course is repeated, both courses are entered on the NDCDE transcript, but only the course with the highest grade will be counted toward the cumulative grade point average. For more information on retakes, see Policy C1f.

Drops and Withdrawals

The NDCDE transcript will not include courses that students dropped within the drop deadline (i.e., drop-grace period) (see Drops & Withdrawals Policy for details, C2b). Students who withdraw from courses after the drop deadline will receive a withdrawal demarcation on their transcript. Based on the assignments submitted, students will receive a withdrawal passing (WP) if they were earning a D- or above or a withdrawal failing (WF) if earning a F.

Enrolled School's Transcription of Final NDCDE Grade

NDCDE prepares a completion certificate for the learning coach or parent to send to the local school district. The NDCDE Completions Policy, C1c, outlines the information provided to the school on this certificate and guidance on transcription of the student's CDE grade.

End of policy

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Policy Referenced:

[Retakes, C1f](#)

[Drops & Withdrawals, C2b](#)

[Completions, C1c](#)