

## Grade Interpretation Guidelines

December 8, 2011

The Faculty of Information (“iSchool”) has adopted the Governing Council’s Graduate Grading and Evaluation Practices Policy.<sup>1</sup> This document supplements that policy by presenting guidelines that the iSchool has adopted for interpreting the grades assigned under that policy.

Detailed expectations and criteria for grading will vary from course to course, depending on specificities of instructor, course content, and learning outcome. In general, however, submitted work in the Faculty will be evaluated on criteria of accuracy, clarity, organization, depth, originality, understanding of relevant issues, scholarship (the extent to which assigned readings and other literature are incorporated into discussion and analysis), and precision in following directions. Written work will also be graded on quality of writing, as the Faculty believes that excellent communication skills are essential characteristics of graduate education. Work that is not well written and grammatically correct will not generally be considered eligible for a grade in the A range, regardless of its quality in other respects.<sup>2</sup>

Interpretation • A		Interpretation • B and FZ	
<b>A+</b>	Truly exceptional work, demonstrating tremendous initiative, originality, creativity, and insight, based on a superb understanding of the subject matter. The work is of unusual depth, considerably surpassing technical mastery, and going well beyond anything presented in class and/or encountered in readings.	<b>B+</b>	Very good work, meeting applicable academic and/or professional standards, demonstrating: (i) good critical judgment; (ii) a very good understanding of all pertinent issues; (iii) a mastery of relevant material, including appropriate facts, data, literature, methods, systems, principles, and techniques; and (iv) the ability to distill, organize, and present complex and difficult material clearly, articulately, and persuasively.
<b>A</b>	A high level of excellence, meeting exemplary academic/professional standards, presenting original and creative ideas, and demonstrating: (i) sound, critical judgment; (ii) an accurate, rigorous, and deep understanding of all pertinent issues; (iii) a thorough mastery of relevant material, including applicable facts, data, literature, methods, systems, principles, and techniques; (iv) the ability to distill, organize, and present complex, difficult material clearly, articulately, and persuasively; and (v) the initiative and ability to find, comprehend, discriminate, evaluate, synthesize, and make excellent use of appropriate resources.	<b>B</b>	Good work, meeting most applicable academic and/or professional standards, demonstrating: (i) good critical judgment; (ii) an understanding of pertinent issues; (iii) a general mastery of all relevant material, including appropriate facts, data, literature, methods, systems, principles, and techniques; and (iv) a general ability to distill, organize, and present complex and difficult material clearly and articulately.
<b>A-</b>	Excellent work, meeting all applicable academic and/or professional standards, demonstrating: (i) sound, critical judgment; (ii) an accurate and rigorous understanding of pertinent issues; (iii) a mastery of relevant material, including appropriate facts, data, literature, methods, systems, principles, and techniques; (iv) the ability to distill, organize, and present complex and difficult material clearly, articulately, and persuasively; and (v) the initiative and ability to find, comprehend, discriminate, evaluate, synthesize, and make effective use of appropriate resources.	<b>B-</b>	Adequate work, meeting applicable academic and/or professional standards, demonstrating: (i) some critical judgment; (ii) an adequate understanding of pertinent issues; (iii) command of the majority of the relevant material, including appropriate facts, data, literature, methods, systems, principles, and techniques; and (iv) an adequate ability to distill, organize, and present complex and difficult material clearly and articulately.
		<b>FZ</b>	Work that fails to meet applicable academic and/or professional standards, and/or that fails to meet the minimal levels of adequacy described in the interpretation of the grade B-.

<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grgrade.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Students are encouraged to consult the writing centre website (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>), which presents a wealth of material and courses available to all UofT students, and the School of Graduate Studies writing centre and resources websites, geared especially to graduate students (<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/informationfor/students/english.htm> and <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/informationfor/students/english/wrtspk.htm>).

· All URLs checked as of Dec 8, 2011.