

## **Student Assessment and Feedback**

Functional Lead: Provost

Division: Academic Support Division

Responsible Office: Education Officer

Reference: (a) Standard 8.1: Student Achievement, SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation 2024 Edition

(b) Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation Fourth Edition Published 2024

(c) MCO 1610.7B, Performance Evaluation System

(d) MARADMIN 412/20, Implementation of Observed Academic Fitness Reports at Officer Resident Professional Military Education Courses

(e) Training and Education 2030

1. Purpose. Provide guidance regarding student assessment and feedback. It provides a broad baseline for educational program directors to use when developing specific grading policies.

2. Background. Marine Corps University (MCU) curriculum are based on approved student learning outcomes (SLO), which, in turn, enable the achievement of program learning outcomes (PLO) and the mission. The goal of assessment is to ensure that students achieve the approved PLOs and SLOs for a particular educational program or course. Timely and effective feedback is a critical element of assessment, providing students with an understanding of how well they addressed the requirements of a particular assignment and how successfully they achieved the evaluated PLOs and SLOs. MCU students are graded on how well they achieve these outcomes; however, it is important to remember that grades are simply one way to evaluate intellectual progress, not goals in and of themselves. A fair and consistent grading policy helps motivate students to excel.

3. Policy

a. Graded Assignments and Instruments. Faculty assess students in various ways, including exams, written assignments, oral presentations, and performance in practical application events, wargames, and exercises. Where appropriate, schools should use grading rubrics to structure student assessment and to provide a tool for shaping student expectations and consistently evaluating performance. The approval and use of grading rubrics is at the discretion of educational program directors who ensure the promulgation of approved rubrics to students as part of the school's grading policy or make them available to students before graded events are assigned or both.

b. Grading Policies and Standard Grade Scale. Educational program directors will approve and publish the academic standards and grade requirements necessary to pass a course and to successfully complete an educational program [e.g., school grading policy, standard operating procedures (SOP), and student handbook]. For consistency across MCU, program directors will use the standard MCU Grading Scale provided below for the awarding of student grades, both

for individual assignments and for overall course or program grades or both, unless the President, MCU approves otherwise.

(1) Degree programs. Students must achieve a minimum grade of B-/80% in every course, to include electives, to receive the degree.

(2) Non-degree Officer PME programs. Students must achieve a minimum grade of B-/80% in every course, to include electives, to qualify for graduation.

(3) Enlisted PME programs. Grades below 80% are considered failure of an assessment, and students must achieve a cumulative final grade of 80% to complete the course.

(4) Alternate grading. Program directors may authorize evaluation of selected assignments and courses on a HIGH PASS/PASS/FAIL basis to promote intellectual risk-taking and creativity.

Grade	Percentage	Value
A+	97 – 100%	4.0
A	93 – 96.9%	4.0
A-	90 – 92.9%	3.7
B+	87 – 89.9%	3.3
B	83 – 86.9%	3.0
B-	80 – 82.9%	2.7
C	70 – 79.9%	2.0
D	60 – 69.9%	1.0
F	<59.9%	0
Incomplete (I)	0	0
Withdrawn (W)	0	0

(5) Grade Point Average (GPA). Officer PME programs will calculate a weighted GPA to reflect relative academic performance per the following formula:

(a)  $\text{Sum (Course grade values multiplied by number of course credits) / Total number of credits}$ .

(b) For the purpose of calculating GPA, courses grades on a High Pass/Pass/Fail basis will not be included.

(6) Final class standing and “distinguished graduates”

(a) Directors will publish the criteria for determining final class standing identifying the graduates of each class who, by their academic achievement and overall leadership and performance, distinguish themselves from their classmates. Criteria should address “the whole student” contribution to program requirements, of which grades and GPA are significant, but not necessarily dispositive components.

(b) Directors are authorized, but not required, to designate up to the top twenty percent (20%) of students as “distinguished graduates” per written program policies and procedures.

c. Student Feedback. Students will receive grades and faculty feedback (to include counseling on non-graded deliverables) no later than 10 working days after the event or submission deadline. At a minimum, feedback will include a paragraph of summative comments that address the extent to which the student demonstrated mastery of SLOs/PLOs.

d. Remediation. Educational program directors will establish a policy regarding remediation of courses or assignments for which a student fails to achieve the minimally acceptable grade. Published remediation policies will describe the type and amount of remediation, the highest grade that may be awarded for successful remediation, and the criteria by which students who fail remediation, or who are consistently unable to meet academic standards, will be referred to the program director for consideration of a Student Performance Evaluation Board (SPEB).

e. Academic Failure. Aside from administrative or disciplinary issues (not including academic integrity), program directors cannot recommend the disenrollment of officer resident students from a program without the convening of an SPEB.

f. Program directors will ensure student final course grades and GPA are posted to applicable record systems no later than three weeks after the end of the course (or, as applicable, course remediation efforts are resolved) or as noted here. In the case of Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS), grades are due on the last school day of April. In the case of Marine Corps War College (MCWAR), School of Advanced Warfighting (SAW), and Command and Staff College (CSC), this will occur not later than the final duty day prior to Memorial Day liberty period.

#### 4. Procedures

a. Program directors will use the assigned e-learning ecosystem to record final grades and calculate GPA.

b. Student transcripts include GPA beginning in Academic Year 20-21. Transcripts from prior academic years do not include GPA.

c. Resident student service performance evaluation (fitness reports) requirements are addressed in a separate policy.

#### Related Policies and Forms:

Student Performance Evaluation Board

Student Awards

MCU Academic Fitness Report Policy

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