

Assessment and Grading Policy

This document is the parent policy for any College or Divisional procedures. Questions regarding this policy are to be directed to the identified Policy Administrator.

Functional category	Academic
Approval date	May 21, 2020
Effective date	May 21, 2020
Policy owner	Vice President, Academic
Policy administrator	Manager, Registrar

Objective

Student assessment is an integral part of NorQuest College's (college) mission of teaching and learning.

The college assessment and grading policy:

- sets out the principles to be used for the assessment of student performance and achievement,
- informs internal and external stakeholders of the grading system at the college, and
- promotes reliable, valid, and fair assessment and grading practices.

Through the assignment of grades, assessment serves as the means to communicate student knowledge and achievement to a variety of stakeholders and, therefore, should be reliable, valid, fair, transparent, and consistent with course and/or program goals and objectives.

This policy applies to final grades in credit courses, Grade Point Average (GPA) and the related academic standing, final grades in non-credit courses, and academic credits from prior learning.

Authority to establish this policy is derived from the [NorQuest College Board of Governors Policy No. 5](#), which delegates authority to the President and CEO to establish policies and procedures for the college's management and operation.

Policy

NorQuest College student performance and achievement will be assessed based on the following principles:

- Assessment is integrated into and aligned with the learning experiences and stated outcomes of a course or program.
- Clear and transparent assessment criteria are provided to students throughout the course.
- Where possible, assessment should be both varied and timely; with student performance assessed in a formative way throughout the course and in a summative way both during and at the end of a course.

Grades determined using these principles will be maintained by the Office of the Registrar. The Office of the Registrar maintains academic records (transcripts) for all students registered in credit courses and non-credit courses.

Alpha grades, percentage grades, and other grade symbols are used to indicate student performance on the academic credit transcript. The standard provincial 4.0 grading system is used to indicate performance based on the alpha grade.

The college uses a weighted GPA calculation to measure individual student average performance. The student's academic standing is assigned based on the GPA. The GPA grade point value assigned to each grade is in compliance with the provincial standard grading system, or the percentage grading system.

In addition to gaining academic credits through the successful completion of credit courses offered by the college, students admitted into programs may gain academic credit through transfer credit and/or prior learning assessment and recognition.

The college uses alternate grading symbols to record performance or attendance in non-credit courses.

Definitions

Academic Credits: the credit values or units of learning assigned to each credit course.

Academic Standing: the scholastic standing of a student based on the earned GPA.

Grade Point Average (GPA): a measure of a student's weighted average obtained by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the total units of course weight attempted in a defined time frame.

Non-credit course: a course that carries no credit weight or credit value and does not impact a student's academic GPA.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR): a formal evaluation and recognition of the skills and knowledge applicants have, regardless of how or where these skills were obtained (e.g., through informal education or training, paid or unpaid work experience, volunteer work, life experience). Recognition is not awarded for experience; it is awarded for knowledge or skills acquired through experience.

Transcript: the official permanent record of a student's academic activities, accepted transfer credits, credit awarded by examination, advanced placement, or other credits, courses, credentials, grades, and cumulative GPA earned while enrolled at the college. Transcripts are maintained by the Office of the Registrar.

Transfer Credit: course completion recognition that admitted students may receive toward NorQuest College programs for graded credit courses successfully completed at another accredited post-secondary institution.

Related information

NorQuest College

- Academic Calendar
- [Assessment and Grading for Credit Courses Procedure](#)
- [Recognition of Prior Learning Procedure](#)

External

- [Post-Secondary Learning Act](#)

Next review date

June 2024

Revision history

Date	Version Number	Action
December 2011	V1	New
August 2013	V2	Update for document links and branding
November 2014	V3	Update for document links
May 2015	V4	Revised; replaces Standard Practice 3.02: Student Evaluations
August 2015	V5	Update for document links
August 2019	V6 (published as V5-C)	Compliance Office template & reorganization update
May 2020	V7 (published as V6)	Review and update
January 2024	V8	Information, Risk & Compliance template & reorganization update