



Faculty of Information Studies

Guidelines to Grade Interpretation¹

August 4, 2006

As stated in the FIS Grading Policy,² the Faculty of Information Studies has adopted the Governing Council's Graduate Grading and Evaluation Practices Policy.³ The present document presents a recommended guideline for interpreting FIS grades assigned under that policy. As such, it supplements the Grading Policy. As stated in the FIS policy, instructors may elect to develop their own grade interpretations in ways appropriate to their course, but such specialized interpretations are to remain approximately in line with the guidelines given here.

Grade		Interpretation
A	A+	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.
	A	A high level of excellence, meeting exemplary academic and/or professional standards, presenting original and creative ideas, and demonstrating: (i) sound, critical judgment; (ii) an accurate, rigorous, deep understanding of all pertinent issues; (iii) a thorough mastery of relevant material, including applicable facts, data, literature, methods, systems, principles, & 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.
	A-	Excellent work, meeting all applicable academic and/or professional standards, demonstrates: (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.

¹This document is available at: <http://www.fis.utoronto.ca/policies/interpretations/FISGradeInterpretations.pdf>

²Available at: <http://www.fis.utoronto.ca/policies/FISGradingPolicy.pdf>

³Available at: <http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/grgrade.pdf>

Grade		Interpretation (cont'd)
B	B+	Very good work, meeting applicable academic and/or professional standards, demonstrates: (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	Good work, meeting most applicable academic and/or professional standards, demonstrates: (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-	Adequate work, meeting applicable academic and/or professional standards, demonstrates: (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.
FZ	FZ	Work fails to meet applicable academic and/or professional standards, and/or fails to meet the minimal levels of adequacy described in the interpretation of the grade B-.

