

Policy on Assignment of Research Grades

The purpose is to call attention to a student's performance in research to the same extent that course work is reported on a transcript. The grade will have significant impact and supervisors are recommended to discuss the grade assigned with the student. The grade does not replace the required annual meeting and report of the advisory committee for Ph.D. students.

The grade should reflect the degree of progress and quality of performance with regard to the stage of the program of the student. Students in the program are graded twice a year. Students in the first year are generally evaluated at the end of their 8th month of registration and semi-annually after that.

A grade of B+ indicates satisfactory progress and reasonable performance in research. A higher grade indicates performance that exceeds this level. Students making exceptional progress, producing outstanding reports, publications, presentations, special contributions, can be given grades of A+. Grades of A and A- also indicate significant strength and progress that is satisfactory.

Grades of B and B- are acceptable but indicate a problem that needs correction in order to complete the degree in a timely and satisfactory manner. The B- is a particularly strong message concerning a known difficulty.

The only failing grade is FZ. This indicates performance at a level that warrants dismissal. Two grades of FZ in sequence will initiate dismissal procedures.