

To Whom it May Concern

## Grading and Ranking in the Faculty of Law, University of Calgary

### 12-band Letter Grading System

Most courses in the Faculty of Law are graded in accordance with the University of Calgary's 12-band letter grading system: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, and F. Details about this system, along with descriptors for each grade can be found here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>.

Our Faculty does not employ a grading "curve" of any kind. What we do have is a requirement for a "B median" for final grades in all courses with more than 10 students. This means is that the middle grade in the class must be a "B". So, for example, in a class of 31 students, the 16<sup>th</sup> grade, from the top and from the bottom, must be a "B". Although *de minimis* variations are sometimes approved, the rule is generally enforced and irregular grade patterns are adjusted when necessary.

The Faculty also has an "A range" guideline. About 10-15% of grades in a given course with more than 10 students should be in the "A range". This includes A-, A, and A+ grades (with the latter being quite rare). Although this is only a guideline, professors are encouraged to comply with it, and to give reasons in the event of non-compliance.

Moreover, professors are encouraged to use the full range of grades in the University's 12-band letter system as appropriate, even in courses with ten students or less.

Note: LLM (graduate) students are subject to a different grading scale and are not included in the B median rule or A range guideline noted above.

### CR/D/F Grading System

Our experiential learning and clinical courses are not, for pedagogical reasons, subject to the letter grading system above. Instead, they are graded on a CR/D/F system, with "CR" meaning "Completed Requirements", "D" being "marginal", and "F" signaling failure.

The following courses are graded on this CR/D/F grading system:

Law 407: Foundations in Law and Justice I  
Law 508: Negotiation  
Law 591: Provincial Court Clerkships  
Law 602: Advocacy  
Law 674A & B: Business Venture Clinic  
Law 687: Criminal Justice Clinical

Law 688A & B: SLA Clinical Practice  
Law 689: Family Law Clinical  
Law 696.01A & B: Public Interest Clinical  
Law 696.01: Marketing and Client Development  
Law 696.06: Human Rights Clinical  
Law 696.08: Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)  
Clinical Law 696.10: Internship in French

### **Ranking our Students**

Our Faculty does not rank its students, either by course or by year. That said, the top ten students overall in each year (based on GPA) are placed on the Dean's List. However, this placement serves only as a record that they are in the top ten. There is no further ranking within the Dean's List, nor is there ranking outside of the List. We also do not compile any overall or aggregate ranking of the graduating class, except that a Gold Medal is awarded to the graduating student ranking first over their three years in the program. To provide some sense of overall Faculty grading norms, it can be noted that historically the cumulative GPA of the Gold Medalist has been in the range of 3.5-3.75.

### **CR/F Election for Winter 2020 term due to COVID-19**

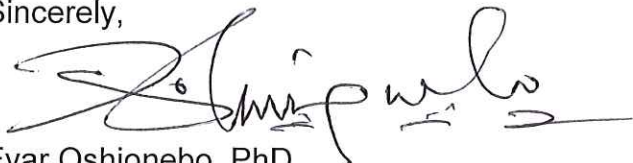
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the 2020 Winter term, the University of Calgary provided students with the option of requesting a "CR/F" grading scheme for each of their Winter 2020 courses. In this election, "CR" means completed requirements and "F" signals failure (*i.e.*, did not meet course requirements). In our Faculty, students were entitled to elect a "CR" grade if they obtained at least a C- final grade in our compulsory courses in the Winter 2020 term (namely, all 1L courses, Evidence, Administrative Law, and Business Associations). They could elect a "CR" grade in an optional course as long as their final grade was at least a D. The University of Calgary made it clear that this election was provided in order to recognize the difficult situation many students unexpectedly found themselves in, and it adopted temporary regulations in regard to promotion, graduation, etc. to ensure that students who elected a CR during this term were not disadvantaged.

### **CR/D Flexible Grading Election for the Fall 2020 term due to COVID-19**

As part of its ongoing efforts to support student mental health and wellness, the University of Calgary provided students the option, for any **one course** (only) completed in the Fall 2020 term, to either accept their final grade in the course or to opt for a flexible grading option. The deadline to make this election was January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Electing this flexible grading option resulted in the following: (a) if the final grade in the course was C- or higher, the letter grade was changed to "CR" (completed requirements) on the transcript, or (b) if the final grade was a D or D+, the letter grade remained on the transcript but it became an unweighted grade so was not included in the GPA calculation.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evar Oshionebo'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'E' and 'O'.

Evar Oshionebo, PhD  
Professor  
Associate Dean (Academic)  
Faculty of Law  
The University of Calgary