Grades inform students of the level of performance they have achieved in a course. Grades are means whereby students may come to know and appreciate their capacities and abilities. Instructors are responsible for specifying the performances required in their courses; students are responsible for meeting the requirements specified.

Grades earned by students at Canisius College reflect:

1. The extent to which the requirements specified in the course syllabus have been met.
2. The degree to which the requirements completed exhibit mastery of the subject or skills which are the object of the course.
3. Other criteria specified by the instructor at the beginning of the course, criteria such as, but not limited to, attendance at lectures or other course functions, projects voluntarily undertaken in excess of specified requirements, correct use of oral or written English and contribution to discussion or other course activities.

Grades earned by undergraduate students include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Superior performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Good performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Adequate performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Poor, but passing performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Failing performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FX</td>
<td>Failure due to excessive absences or unauthorized absence from the final examination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P or U</td>
<td>P-Passing. U-Failing. The description of the Pass/Fail program is given later in this chapter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final grades are available on the college's online services page at the conclusion of each semester. If an official grade report is needed for any reason, contact the Student Records and Financial Services Center to request a grade report.

Final course grades cannot, in normal circumstances, be altered after they have been recorded on the student academic record. Should an exceptional reason occur that would justify a late grade change, the faculty member can submit to the appropriate associate dean a request to change a student's recorded grade within the following time frame:

- The end of the spring semester following a course taken in the fall
- The end of the fall semester following a course taken in the summer
- The end of the fall semester following a course taken in the spring

Any request for a grade change after these deadlines must be submitted to the dean of the appropriate college with documentation as to why the grade should be changed.

Students who are disputing a grade received in a course must do so under the guidelines and within the timeframes described under grade grievance procedures.

Students who are dissatisfied with their grade in a course may repeat the course once (exceptions may be approved by the appropriate associate dean in consultation with the department chair). In such cases both grades will be entered in the student’s record, but, for the purpose of computing grade point average, only the second grade will be used for the calculation. Because retaking courses that have already been passed (any grade of D or above) affects a student’s financial aid, students should consult with the Student Records and Financial Services Center and their academic advisor before retaking any courses.

**Incomplete Grade**

A student who, for serious and well defined reasons, has failed to fulfill all requirements of a course or has failed to take the final exam may petition the course instructor to request from the appropriate associate dean, a grade of “I”, indicating “Incomplete Performance.”

Only the appropriate associate dean may grant an incomplete grade request. It will not be granted to a student whose only reason is excessive absence during the semester or failure to complete the work of the course before the close of the semester without an exceptionally good reason. Examples of such good reasons might be prolonged illness or hospitalization during the semester, serious illness at the time of the final examination, or other unusual circumstances.

An incomplete grade, when granted, is merely temporary and will automatically be changed to an “FX” grade if a final grade is not submitted by March 1 for the fall, August 1 for the spring and October 1 for the summer.

**Pass-Fail Program**

Seniors and juniors are eligible to elect one course each semester not to exceed four courses total for which they will receive a grade of either “Pass, P grade” or “Fail, U grade.” The purpose of this plan is to enable upperclassmen to take more difficult courses than they would normally take for fear of lowering their grade point average.

The program is as follows:

1. Seniors and juniors who have completed at least 30 hours at Canisius may elect one course each semester, not to exceed a total
of four courses in their college careers, for which they will receive a
certified grade on their transcript of either “Pass” or “Fail.”
2. This course must be a free elective in the student’s degree program.
3. Within one week after the semester begins, the student must file a
request for “Pass-Fail” grading. Application forms may be found in
the Student Records and Financial Services Center. If the registrar
determines that the course meets the requirements to be taken pass-
fail, grades will still be assigned for all work done during the course
and on the final examination. A final grade will be entered for the
student by the instructor. If this grade is “D” or above, the registrar
will record a pass (P grade) for the course on the student’s transcript;
otherwise, he will record a failure (U grade).
4. Having received permission to take a course on the “Pass-Fail”
option, a student may request, in the last week of classes and prior
to exam week, that they be withdrawn from the pass-fail option and
be assigned a conventional letter grade instead. This request is made
at the Student Records and Financial Services Center. A student
who withdraws from the “Pass-Fail” option receives the letter grade
assigned by the instructor.
5. A student attaining a grade of Pass will receive full credit for this
course.
6. If a student elects to receive pass or fail in a course, this course will
not be counted in the grade point average. The student must carry
at least four courses (12 credit hours) to be eligible for this program.
Part-time students, however, are eligible with fewer than four courses.
7. This plan is entirely optional. A student may or may not elect to take
advantage of it.

Grade Grievance Procedure
Occasions may arise when a student does not agree with the grade he/
she has received in a course. When this happens, the question of whether
the grade should be reconsidered is addressed in two stages.

I. The initial stage in the grievance procedure is as follows:
   a. The student first contacts the course instructor to discuss the
      grade in question within four weeks of the start of the semester
      (regular academic session) immediately following that in which
      the grade was awarded. If the instructor agrees that the grade
      in question was inaccurate, a grade change is processed by the
      instructor.
   b. If the student and the instructor cannot agree on the
      appropriateness of the grade in question, the student may
      petition the chair of the instructor’s department, in writing,
      within ten working days after the meeting with the instructor.
      If a mutually agreeable decision is made through mediation
      conducted by the chair, the instructor will submit the agreed-
      upon grade and the process is completed. If there is no outcome
      that is mutually acceptable to the student and the instructor, the
      process may continue. If the instructor is also the chair, then Step
      2 is omitted and the process goes to Step 3.
   c. The student may appeal the decision to the appropriate associate
      dean’s office within ten working days after the mediation process
      is complete. The associate dean shall collect written views/and
      other pertinent material from the involved instructor, student
      and chair, as well as consult with any other individuals deemed
      necessary. The associate dean shall render the decision whether
      the grade should be reconsidered.
   d. The decision of the associate dean to reconsider or not to
      reconsider the grade in question is final. If the decision is to
      reconsider the grade, the procedure outlined in Part B below
      is followed. If the decision is not to reconsider the grade, the
      original grade cannot be changed. Cases which are referred to the
      procedure in Part B can be withdrawn only with the consent of the
      student, instructor, department chair, and associate dean after
      first informing all parties involved.

II. The final stage in the grievance procedure is as follows:
   a. If the associate dean feels that the reconsideration of the grade
      in question is appropriate, a panel of tenured faculty who have
      not been involved in the process described above is formed from
      the department in question. The panel must be formed within ten
days of the associate dean’s decision. If the department does
      not have a minimum of four members, it will be expanded to
      include all the tenured members of the departments within the
      division (Natural Science, Social Science, Humanities, Education,
      or Business) of which the department in question is a member.
   b. A three-member panel will be selected as follows. The associate
      dean, faculty member and student involved will each select one
      member of the panel from the designated pool.
   c. The panel will review all appropriate material and make a
determination about the grade change. This review must be
      completed within thirty days of the formation of the panel.
The panel has the authority to assign a grade for the course in
      question. That grade may be the same grade as assigned by the instructor
      or a higher or a lower grade, according to the panel’s judgment.
The student and the instructor will be informed of the panel’s
decision and, when applicable, the authorized grade change will
      be submitted to the registrar.
   d. The decision of the panel may be appealed by the original
      instructor or the student to the vice president for academic
      affairs only in the following extraordinary circumstances:
      i. The grade grievance procedure was not followed.
      ii. Prejudice was manifested against either the student or the
      instructor.
      iii. New, relevant information was introduced.
The appeal must be brought within thirty days of the panel’s
decision. The burden of proof for the appeal rests with the
individual bringing the appeal.
   e. If the vice president for academic affairs believes that the
decision of the panel should be reviewed, a three-member appeal
panel will be appointed from the pool of tenured faculty as
     described in Step B-1. The vice president, the faculty member and
the student involved will each select one member. No member
of the original panel may serve on the appeal panel. The appeal
panel will follow the procedure in Step B-3, including completion
of its task within thirty days of the formation of the panel. The
decision of the appeal panel is final.

Courses at Other Colleges
Students matriculating at Canisius should plan to complete all their
coursework at the college. The rationale for this policy rests in the
mission and philosophy of the college and in its concern for the essential
unity and integrity of all aspects of the curriculum: the college core,
major requirements and free electives. Permission to take courses at
other colleges during the regular and summer sessions is granted by the
appropriate associate dean, who will consider all aspects of the student’s
request, including the quality and level of the proposed course and its role
in the student’s program. Courses intended to fulfill major requirements
must also be approved by department chairperson. Permission to take
Grades and Policies

courses at other colleges must be requested on the appropriate form and
in advance of taking the course.

Generally, the following guidelines apply:

1. Students are ordinarily limited to one course at another institution for
every ten courses taken at Canisius.
2. Junior and senior-level major course requirements are not transferred
from community colleges.
3. Courses taken at a four-year college/university will be accepted only
if they are offered at a comparable level at Canisius (i.e., freshman-
sophomore level/junior-senior level).
4. Students who live outside the greater Buffalo area may receive more
lenient consideration in taking a summer course at another college.
However, the associate dean may recommend an online web-based
course as a preferred option if he/she considers it more appropriate
than the off-campus course.
5. Courses used to fulfill Core Curriculum requirements should be taken
at Canisius College.

Study Abroad Course Grades

In keeping with the college’s policy on “Courses at Other Colleges,”
students who wish to study at the universities associated with Canisius
must study through the Canisius programs. Grades earned in Canisius-
affiliated study abroad programs will transfer back to the college and will
be counted toward a student’s grade point average.

Students who wish to study at other foreign universities or in other
countries than those associated with Canisius should confer with the
Study Abroad Office. If one of these programs is approved for a student
to use as credit toward a Canisius degree, the credit hours will transfer
back to Canisius, but the grades will not count toward a student’s grade-
point average.