

## **A Word of Explanation about the Law School Grading Scale**

- In Winter, 2007, the student and faculty members of the School of Law’s Standards Committee recommended to the faculty, and the faculty approved at its April meeting, a new Grading Scale for the School of Law
- The new grading scale will impact every student who graduates AFTER August, 2007—that is, everyone who is in the building at this time;
- The overall Grade Point Average will go up;
  - About the New Grading Scale:
    - The most significant feature of the new grading scale is that the law school moves **from** a scale that has grades ranging from 55-100 **to** a scale that has grades ranging from 65-100;
      - ✓ This does not mean that everybody’s average automatically goes up 10 points;
      - ✓ Rather, all grades must be adjusted proportionally along the new scale;
    - For all students, the graduating average is now 77.5
    - For all students, the lowest passing score is now 70;
    - Please refer to the following **Grade Correlation Chart**;
    - 100 on old scale is 100 on new scale. For all other grades:

<u><b>Old Scale</b></u>		<u><b>New Scale</b></u>
lowest grade: Grade at least:	highest grade Not more than:	new grade
99.33	100.00	100
98.00	99.33	99
96.67	98.00	98
95.33	96.67	97
94.00	95.33	96
92.67	94.00	95
91.33	92.67	94
90.00	91.33	93
88.67	90.00	92
87.33	88.67	91
86.00	87.33	90
84.67	86.00	89
83.33	84.67	88
82.00	83.33	87
80.67	82.00	86
79.33	80.67	85

78.00	79.33	84
76.67	78.00	83
75.33	76.67	82
74.00	75.33	81
72.67	74.00	80
71.33	72.67	79
70.00	71.33	78
68.67	70.00	77
67.33	68.67	76
66.00	67.33	75
64.67	66.00	74
63.33	64.67	73
62.00	63.33	72
60.67	62.00	71
59.33	60.67	70
58.00	59.33	69
56.67	58.00	68
55.33	56.67	67
54.00	55.33	66
52.67	54.00	65

- Based on the above, although individual grades are, and will remain, the exclusive province of the individual faculty member, it is expected that median grades will move in these directions;
  - First Year Median: From 77.5 to 83.5
  - Required Second/Third Year Classes: From 79 to 84
 You should note that the New Grading Scale has more of a “Graduate School” feel to it;
  - The Median GPA for the 2007 Graduating class is approximately 79.5;
    - ✓ While this is what it is, a median, there would be those on the outside who would consider this GPA a “C;”
    - ✓ Although we have tried to discourage this, both through our Career Planning office and on the Web, we have been aware of the perception;
  - Under the new Grading Scale, this same GPA would be 84 and would thus, in the perception of some, reflect itself as a “mid-B;”
- Below are our rules regarding dismissal and probation. The prior grade is in the text. The new grade is in bold in parenthesis.
  - A student is dismissed at the end of the first semester, and is not eligible to return until the following year, if the average is below 67 (**75.3**)

- A student is dismissed at the end of the first semester, but is eligible to petition for readmission, if the average is below 68.5 **(76.4)**
- A student is dismissed at the end of the first year if the cumulative grade point average is less than 68.5 **(76.4)**
- A student is dismissed at the end of any semester after the student's first year if the grade point average for that semester is less than 68.5 **(76.4)**
- A student is dismissed at the end of any semester during which the student has been on probation if his or her grade point average for that semester is less than 70.0 **(77.5)**
- A student is dismissed at the end of any semester during which the student has been on probation if his or her grade point average for that semester is not sufficient to raise the cumulative grade point average to graduation level **(77.5)** if continued in future semesters until the remaining requirements for graduation have been satisfied;
- A student is placed or continued on probation:
  - at the end of the student's first year if his or her cumulative grade point average is from 68.5 **(76.4)** to 69.9 **(77.4)** inclusive; or at the end of any semester after the student's first year, if his or her grade point average for that semester is from 68.5 **(76.4)** to 69.9 **(77.4)** inclusive;
  - a student who is on probation will be continued on probation if his or her cumulative grade point average is less than 70.0 **(77.5)**, but the semester grade point average is sufficient to raise his or her cumulative grade point average to graduation level **(77.5)** if continued in future semesters until the remaining requirements for graduation have been satisfied.
- A student ceases to be on probation at the end of a semester when his or her cumulative grade point average and grade point average for that semester are both 70.0 **(77.5)** or higher.
- Here are some of the mechanics;
  - Your class rank will NOT change. Class ranks were based on your overall GPA at the end of the Winter, 2007 semester. Class ranks will not be adjusted again until the end of the Fall, 2007 semester;
  - NO student whose grade point average was at the graduation level prior to this change will have a new GPA below the graduation level;

- Grades earned under the prior Grading Scale will NOT be adjusted, except for those earned during the Summer, 2007;
  - Grades from Summer, 2007 are not figured into your overall GPA until the end of the Fall semester;
  - As a result, all grades from Summer, 2007 will be adjusted to the new Grading Scale;
- Your Record of Grades here at the law school will look different beginning within a reasonably short time;
  - If you attended Summer School during the summer, 2007, your grades will appear on the Record of Grades under both Grading scales;
  - Grades earned under the prior Grading scale will not otherwise be adjusted;
  - Beginning either with the conclusion of the Winter, 2007 term or the Summer, 2007 term, the Quality Points and your Overall GPA will be adjusted to the New Grading Scale;
  - The following statement will appear at the bottom of your Record of Grades:
 

“In April, 2007, the School of Law revised its grading scale to be effective for students graduating after August, 2007. Grades beginning with the Fall, 2007 term are reported under a 65-100 grading scale. Grades for classes from Summer, 2007 or earlier, as well as all semester GPA’s from Summer, 2007 or earlier, are based on a 55-100 grading scale, although grades from Summer, 2007 are reported on both scales. For students graduating after August, 2007, the cumulative GPA for the Winter, 2007 term and later, including Summer, 2007 have been adjusted as if class grades for all semesters were under the new grading scale. At the conclusion of the Winter or Summer, 2007 term all cumulative quality points and cumulative GPA’s were adjusted upwards, using the following formula:

    1. [Quality Points as of Summer, 2007 x 0.75] + [25 x credit hours as of Summer, 2007] - Quality Points as of Summer, 2007 = Adjustment to Quality Points;
    2. [Quality Points + Adjustment to Quality Points] / total credit hours = adjusted GPA.”
- ✓ Your Official Transcript, the one that you must obtain from Jesse Hall, will reflect the changes to the grading scale and will reference this statement on the web for further explanation.