



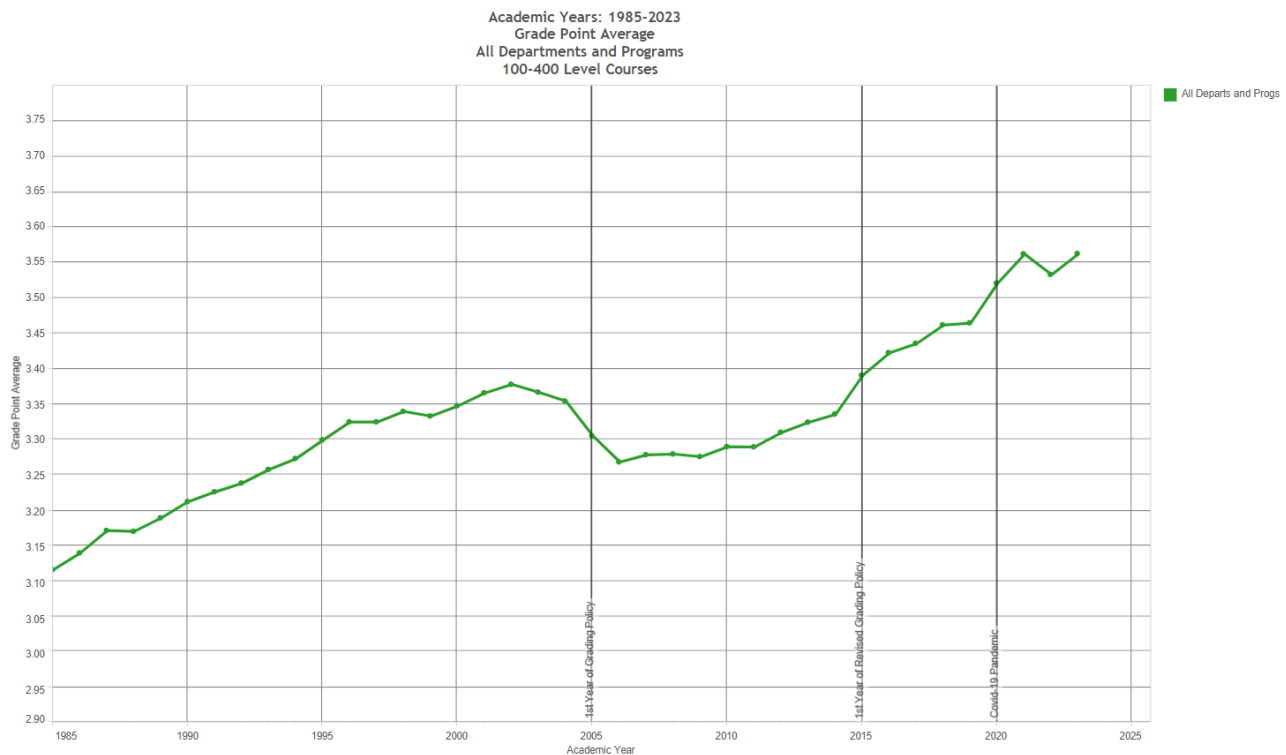
For release September 11, 2023

To promote fairness and transparency in the assessment of students' work, the University grading policy, approved by the faculty in October 2014, charges each department to articulate and uphold its own well-defined grading standards for work within its discipline. The policy calls for the Faculty Committee on Examinations and Standing to report to the faculty each fall on the grading record of the previous year. The 2022-23 report follows.

Undergraduate Grading Results for AY 2022-2023

In AY 18-19, the Committee reported that the inflationary trend of the previous five years appeared to be leveling off, but the more generous grading policies and practices instituted in response to COVID-19 pandemic conditions led to a steep increase in GPA during academic years 19-20 and 20-21. In AY 21-22, as the University returned to normal grading practices, the mean course grades across all departments and programs decreased slightly (0.03 points), although the course grade point average for all courses remained 0.07 points higher than in the last pre-COVID year (3.46 in AY 18-19).

In AY 22-23, the course grade point average has increased to 3.562, returning to the pandemic high of AY 20-21. The course GPA is now 0.17 points higher than it was in AY 2015, the first year the revised grading policy was in effect, and 0.26 points higher than in AY 2005, the first year following the previous grading policy, which actively sought to curb grade inflation.



We'd like to remind faculty that returning to pre-pandemic expectations for student academic performance is perfectly acceptable. Princeton's academic rigor delivers a high-quality education; high grading standards don't preclude compassion and empathy for exigent student circumstances.

While we understand that students' course evaluations may be affected by instructors' grading practices, do know that the Princeton administration values high assessment standards and expectations, and will read student course evaluations critical of strict grading standards in context.

Likewise, the Faculty Committee on Examinations and Standing will explore the possibility of contextualizing grades on student transcripts, so that a student's "A" grade can be situated among the mean grade in any given course. Such a practice will make Princeton transcripts more meaningful to local and broader audiences.

Grading practices and standards, of course, differ across divisions and departments and, as you know, grading policies are not centralized at the University. We encourage you to continue department-level conversations about grading and to carefully consider your own rubrics in each of your individual courses.

Grading data for all divisions, departments, and programs that will be made available shortly to all faculty through a secure server: <https://princetonu.sharepoint.com/sites/odoc/gradingdata/>. Additional information may be found on the Office of the Dean of the College website: <https://odoc.princeton.edu/faculty/teaching-support/grading>

Individual faculty members will also receive a report on their own grading data from the Registrar. Chairs will receive department summary reports. We recommend that departments review their grading results to ensure their consistency with articulated local standards and that you continue to stage faculty and instructor discussions about the best grading and assessment practices for your discipline.

--Dean Jill Dolan, for the Faculty Committee on Examinations and Standing

The Faculty Committee on Examinations and Standing is chaired by Jill Dolan, Dean of the College, and includes the following elected faculty members for AY 23-24, representing all four divisions: Andrew Chignell, Religion; Jonathan Conway, Chemical & Biological Engineering; Faruk Gul, Economics; Michael Mueller, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering; Laure Resplandy, Geosciences; Christina Riehl, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; and Owen Zidar, Economics and School of Public & International Affairs. Karen Richardson, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid; Emily Shandley, Registrar; W. Rochelle Calhoun, Vice President for Campus Life; and Claire Fowler, Senior Associate Dean of the College, serve ex officio. The Committee's charge from the faculty is to administer academic regulations concerning the program of study and scholastic standing of undergraduate students.