



Office of the Dean of the College
Fourth Floor, West College
Princeton, New Jersey 08544-5264

February 14, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I write to help you to better evaluate our students' credentials by placing their academic records in context. Princeton University is committed to fairness and transparency in assessment of student's work and grading practices. This approach emphasizes well-defined evaluative criteria and meaningful feedback as the most important pedagogical components of the grading system.

From fall term 2004-05 through spring term 2013-14, Princeton established a common grading expectation for every department and program: **A-range grades (A+, A, A-) were to account for less than 35 percent of grades given in undergraduate courses** and less than 55 percent of grades given in junior and senior independent work. Each department or program determined how best to meet these expectations.

In the fall term 2014-15, the faculty reaffirmed rigorous and transparent assessment measures and removed a numeric target for the percent of A grades.

When you are evaluating our students' credentials, I encourage you to consider their full profile of accomplishments. To the extent that you consider grades in your deliberations, please note that Princeton grades stand out against a national backdrop of grade inflation.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the above address or by e-mail at jsdolan@princeton.edu.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill S. Dolan".

Jill S. Dolan
Dean of the College