



# ALBANY LAW SCHOOL

## EXPLANATION OF GRADING SYSTEM LETTER GRADES AND NUMERICAL EQUIVALENTS

Professors evaluate student work by written examination, except where such examination is inappropriate, such as in seminar, practice court or workshop, and legal research and writing courses. Some professors count classroom participation in assigning final course grades.

Grade definitions include:

A:	EXCELLENT-	Demonstrating superior ability in the fulfillment of course requirements.
B:	GOOD-	Demonstrating skill and proficiency in the fulfillment of course requirements.
C:	SATISFACTORY-	Demonstrating basic competence in the fulfillment of course requirements.
D:	PASS-	Demonstrating minimal competence in the fulfillment of course requirements.
F:	FAILURE-	Failing to demonstrate competence in the fulfillment of course requirements.

Within each of the above categories (except "Failure") pluses and minuses may be added to differentiate levels of accomplishment within a category.

Grades are scaled as follows:

Letter Grades	Numerical Equivalents	Minimum grade required to attain *	
A+	4.3	Top 10%	3.87
A	4.0	Top 25%	3.61
A-	3.7	Top 33%	3.52
B+	3.3	Top 50%	3.37
B	3.0	Top 75%	3.11
B-	2.7	Minimum grade required for graduation	2.25
C+	2.3	* based on May 2024 graduating class	
C	2.0		
C-	1.7		
D+	1.30		
D	1.0		
D-	0.7		
F	0.0		

Effective January 2013, elective pass/fail is an option with professor approval. Effective spring 2021, students are allowed up to two courses (up to 8 credits) of electives pass/fail with professor approval.

## CLASS RANK INFORMATION/GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Albany Law School students are ranked by their grade point averages in relation to other members of their class. Usually, more than half of the members of a graduating class have cumulative grade point averages in the 2.99 to 2.30 range. One consequence of this “bunching in the middle” is that significant differences in class ranks may reflect insignificant differences in corresponding grade point averages.

The following lists show the cumulative grade-point averages (G.P.A.) and corresponding class ranks (Rank) for the Classes of 2025 and 2026 in descending order, in increments of approximately 10.

Class of 2025		0	Class of 2026	
G.P.A.	RANK		G.P.A.	RANK
4.27	1		4.22	1
4.02	9		4.06	9
3.80	19		3.86	20
3.76	29		3.73	29
3.65	40		3.57	40
3.58	51		3.48	50
3.53	61		3.41	61
3.43	72		3.29	73
3.31	83		3.23	84
3.21	92		3.13	96
3.07	106		3.03	108
2.99	119		2.93	120
2.89	131		2.86	131
2.83	140		2.78	140
2.75	150		2.68	150
2.35	160		2.51	160

*Please Note: Albany Law School has a grade scale that includes the grade of A+, which has higher quality point associated to it than the A grade. As such, when students receive grades of A+ it raises their cumulative GPA above the 4.00 GPA mark. When ranking occurs for a class year that has multiple students with a cumulative GPA above 4.00, it creates an environment where the top 10 percent of students in that class have a cumulative GPA in the 3.70's. In these cases, employers may want to look at the top 15 percent of the class to reach the 3.60 mark, which is closer to the top 10 percent when the highest cumulative GPA is a 4.00.*

## FACULTY POLICY ON UNIFORM GRADING

### **EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2021:**

- **First-Year Courses (including Introduction to Lawyering)**

All courses in the first year of study shall be graded according to a uniform policy. Each professor shall award grades in his or her section so that the median GPA of those grades is a 3.00, including class participation points, with a presumptive distribution of grades as follows:

Presumptive Distribution	
As	20 - 35%
Bs	45 - 65%
Cs	0 - 15%
Ds & Fs	0 - 10%

Students in the four-year program or those who otherwise take out of sequence a course ordinarily taken in the first year of studies shall be graded in accordance with the policy established for that first-year course.

First -Year Seminar Classes – the median for the one credit seminar class is an A-.

- **Upper-class Courses**

Each instructor of a multiple-section course (except for Trial Practice I and II, Client Interviewing and Counseling, and Negotiation for Lawyers) shall award grades in his or her course or section so that the median GPA in that course or section shall be a “B+” (3.30). A multiple-section course is defined as any course in which more than one section is taught in an academic year by more than one professor. An academic year begins in the fall semester and continues through the following spring and summer semesters. (e.g. Academic year 2020-2021 includes fall of 2020, spring of 2021, and summer of 2021).

For Trial Practice I and II, Client Interviewing and Counseling, and Negotiation for Lawyers, the median GPA of 3.00 shall be presumptive, rather than mandatory.

### **EFFECTIVE WITH THE CLASS OF 2021:**

A student who receives a grade of D+, D, or D- in any required course is not eligible for graduation until the course is either retaken. (effective 2024).

**For purposes of this rule, required courses are all courses in the first-year curriculum, Constitutional Law II, Evidence, and Legal Profession or Professional Responsibility Seminar.**

- a. The appropriate section for any repeated work will be subject to administrative approval.