

## Loyola University Maryland Grading Scale

The grade of *C* rewards a successful academic performance. Grades of *C+*, *B-*, *B*, *B+*, *A-* and *A* measure additional gradations of accomplishment.

**A:** Denotes outstanding achievement that is truly distinctive. The grade of *A* is earned by that student whose performance is highly accomplished--that is, who, grounded in the discipline, consistently shows superior mastery of course concepts and skills, offers leadership in class discussion and activities, and reliably takes the initiative in seeking knowledge beyond the formal confines of the course.

**B:** Denotes achievement well above acceptable standards and is a mark of distinction. The grade of *B* is earned by a student who surpasses the standard performance with work that, in its rigor, originality, and creativity, is evidence of a firm command of course material within the framework of the discipline and of active engagement in learning in and out of class.

**C:** Denotes an acceptable level of achievement in the course and is the standard for graduation from the University. The grade of *C* is earned by a student who successfully completes the requirements for the course laid out in the syllabus. The *C* student learns the course material, understands the nature of the discipline, develops requisite abilities and skills, and improves facility of expression through productive engagement in class and sufficient study outside of class.

The following grades describe substandard performance:

**C- *Unsatisfactory*:** Denotes academic performance below the standards for the course. The grade of *C-* earns academic credit but with a QPA value of 1.67.

**D *Inadequate*:** Denotes work of inferior quality that barely meets the objectives for the course. The grade of *D* is the lowest passing grade and a mark of inadequate performance.

**F *Failure*:** Denotes work below minimal standards of competence required to pass the course. A failing grade earns no academic credit; the course does not satisfy prerequisite or degree requirements.