

Physics 1250 -1251: Assigning Letter Grades

Grade Scheme:

At the end of the semester, grades are assigned (as closely as possible) according to the historic distribution of grades in the calculus-based introductory courses:

letter	percent
A	14
A-	11
B+	11
B	14
B-	11
C+	11
C	10
C-	6
D+	3.5
D	4
E	4.5

So, the top 14% of students receive A, the next 11% receive A-, etc.

Details:

- (1) The course manager sets the grade cutoffs (grading scheme) according to the historic distribution of grades shown above. Note that the cutoffs will never be set higher than the corresponding cutoffs in the OSU Standard Scheme, which has these cutoffs: A = 93%, A- = 90%, B+ = 87%, B = 83%, B- = 80%, C+ = 77%, C = 73%, C- = 70%, D+ = 67%, D = 60%, E < 60%. Examples: the A cutoff will never be set higher than 93%; the B- cutoff will never be set higher than 80%, etc.
- (2) Note that Carmen does not round up when assigning letter grades. For example, if an A- begins at 90, Carmen sees an average grade of 89.99 as a B+, not an A-. To compensate for this feature, and to promote student participation in the SEI's (Student Evaluation of Instruction), a policy has been adopted, called the SEI Participation bonus:
SEI Participation bonus: If at least 65% of students enrolled in a lecture section participate in the on-line survey "Student Evaluation of Instruction" (SEI) for both lecturer and recitation instructor, then a bonus of 0.5 % will be added to every student's percentage score in that lecture section before the grading scheme is applied.
- (3) The course manager determines the grade cutoffs before any bonus points are included in the course averages of the students.