

MAT 2800: Explanation of Standards for Letter Grades

Many problems on assignments and exams will require explanations in the form of short essay responses, in addition to symbolic mathematical formulations. For such problems I will assign letter (rather than numerical) grades, based on specified objectives and standards. These letter grades will be converted to the standard 0 – 4 scale, as will numerical scores ($100\% \equiv 4.5, 90\% \equiv 3.5, \dots, 60\% \equiv 1.5, \leq 55\% \equiv 0$), and a weighted average will then be used to compute your final grade for the course.

Letter grades correspond to my judgement of quality as follows:

- A Excellent. The work exhibits mastery of nearly all important ideas, including those which are subtle or difficult, much insight and originality, highly coherent organization and fine expository style. Errors and omissions, if any, are minor.
- B Good. The work exhibits substantial understanding of most important ideas, including some which are subtle or difficult, some insight and originality, coherent organization and correct usage, grammar and spelling. There are some substantive errors or omissions.
- C Fair. The work exhibits basic understanding of many fundamental ideas, although not those which are subtle or difficult, and demonstrates some coherence. The presentation is readable, with at most minor errors of usage, grammar or spelling. There are many substantive errors or omissions.
- D Poor. The work exhibits some understanding of a few fundamental ideas, but not those which are subtle or difficult, and it fails to demonstrate coherence. Usage, grammar and spelling are mostly correct. There are a great many substantive errors or omissions.
- F No credit. The work exhibits too few of the positive qualities noted above to be worthy of credit.