



Grade requirements for graduate students

There are five sets of grade requirements for graduate students.

1. A minimum grade of C for every course used towards the degree. Some degree programs require higher grades for some or all courses (see your program's requirements in the [Catalog](#)).
2. The post-baccalaureate SDSU cumulative GPA^{a,b} must be 3.00 or higher.
3. The post-baccalaureate overall cumulative GPA^{a,c} must be 3.00 or higher.
4. The SDSU Program of Study GPA^b must be 3.00 or higher.
5. The overall Program of Study GPA^c must be 3.00 or higher.

^a The post-baccalaureate GPA (often referred to as “cumulative GPA”) is calculated using all graded courses listed on the SDSU transcripts after the student has earned a Bachelor's degree, regardless of whether or not the courses are applied towards the degree you are currently pursuing, and whether or not they are graduate-level courses.

The “post-baccalaureate SDSU cumulative GPA” and “post-baccalaureate overall cumulative GPA” are usually identical, and are both referred to as “the cumulative GPA” by most campus staff and faculty.

^b The SDSU GPA (sometimes called “campus GPA”) calculations use all SDSU courses: San Diego Main Campus, Imperial Valley Campus, and Global Campus (whether Special Sessions or Open University).

^c The overall GPA calculations are calculated using all SDSU courses, plus transfer courses that have been formally recognized by the SDSU College of Graduate Studies and appear on the SDSU transcripts.

Good academic standing

Good academic standing is maintained with grade requirements 2 and 3. Failure to maintain good academic standing will result in academic probation, and possible disqualification. See the section of the Catalog titled [University Policies: Probation and Disqualification \(Graduate Students\)](#) for detailed information regarding the timeframe and requirements for avoiding disqualification.

Advancement to candidacy

To be advanced to candidacy, all five sets of grade requirements must be met, and at least 12 Program of Study units must be completed. Many programs have additional requirements prior to advancement to candidacy (discuss with your graduate advisor).

Graduation

To graduate, all five sets of grade requirements must be met.

Course repeats

Ordinarily, a graduate student may not repeat courses. However, with prior permission of Graduate Studies, a student may repeat one course on the official Program of Study in which a grade less than C has been earned. (Some programs have a higher minimum grade requirement; see your program's [Catalog](#) entry.) Course repeat petitions are sent to Graduate Studies by the program's graduate advisor. Repeated courses must be the same exact course, must be taken at SDSU, and may not be taken for Credit / No Credit (Cr/NC).

When a graduate student repeats a course, both grades will remain on the student's permanent record and both grades will be calculated in all grade point averages. There is no "course forgiveness" policy for graduate students, with one rare exception. Upon appeal to the College of Graduate Studies, the first grade for a repeated course may be omitted from all GPA calculations if the first grade was withdrawal unauthorized (WU).

Credit / No Credit grading

As described in the Catalog, a grade of Credit does not fulfill graduation requirements if the course has a letter grade option. (The graduate advisor may recommend an exception to this policy during a semester designated as Covid-impacted on the SDSU transcripts).

At least 70% of the units used towards a Master's degree program must be letter graded.