




The John Knoblock Faculty Senate
Office
Ashe Administration Building, #325
1252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

facsen@miami.edu
web site: <https://fs.miami.edu>
P: 305-284-3721
F: 305-284-5515

MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk, President
From: Tomás A. Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate 
Date: April 24, 2019
Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2018-66(D) – Faculty Senate Academic Standards
Committee Undergraduate Grading Report for 2018

At its April 17, 2019 meeting, the Faculty Senate voted unanimously to accept the 2018 Undergraduate Grading Report from the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your information.

TAS/rh

Enclosure

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Uzma Khan, Chair, Academic Standards Committee

March 2019 Undergraduate Grading Report Fall 2018

Annual Report on Undergraduate Grading Prepared by the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Standards¹

Purpose of the Report: To provide a Faculty Senate sponsored assessment of grades earned by full-time students by teaching school.

Summary: The average grade point average (GPA) earned by full-time degree undergraduates stayed steady at 3.39 compared to 3.38 of last year (Table 1). The range of undergraduate GPA is 0.48, with Frost School of Music having the highest GPA (3.69) and the College of Engineering the lowest (3.21). 63% percent of all grades for full-time degree-seeking undergraduates were A's and while only 3% of all grades were either D's or F's (Table 2).

An assessment of the GPA statistics shows little variability over the previous years. As shown in Tables 2 and 3, the overall Fall 2018 undergraduate average GPA was 3.39 (up 0.01 from 2017), and the GPA for new freshman was 3.42 (up from 3.39).

Statistics for New Freshmen and Transfer Students: As indicated in Table 5, for new freshmen, the average GPA was 3.42. The range of GPA was 0.54, with Miller School of Medicine having the highest GPA (3.82) and the School of Nursing the lowest (3.28). For new transfer students in the Frost School of music had the highest GPA (3.55) while new transfer students in Rosenstiel School had the lowest (2.75) closely followed by the school of nursing (2.86) and the school of Engineering (2.89).

Table 4 shows the GPA results for new freshmen and Transfer students over 10 year period. The GPA of new freshmen climbed to 3.42 in 2018 compared to 3.25 in 2009. GPA of transfer students has also improved to 3.19 in 2018 compared to 2.98 in 2009, though it continues to lag below the GPA for new (Fall) freshman

Fall 2017-18 Retention Statistics for New Freshmen and Transfers: As seen in Table 6, the retention of new freshmen is up by 1.5 percentage points from last year. Retention of new transfer has also increased 4.3 percentage points from last year..

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Grading patterns have not changed much over the years. New freshmen and transfer retention rates hold greater than +90%, but the new transfer GPA continues to lag behind that of the new freshmen (Table 4). The difference in new freshmen and new transfer students is highest at Rosenstiel (0.59) and Nursing (0.51) schools followed closely by the school of Engineering (0.41). The Committee

¹ Members of the Academic Standards Committee are Uzma Khan (Chair), Ricardo Bascuas, Mary Beth Calhoun, Anthony Hynes, Latoya Lewis-Pierre, Dennis Smith, Joseph Treaster, Jamie Walls, Xiangyang Zhou, Stepen Cantrell (Ex officio), and William Scott Green (Ex officio)

recommends that the 2018-2019 Academic Standards Committee continue to monitor grade distributions, GPA, and retention patterns and address any areas in need. In addition, to address the lagging GPA of new transfer students, the committee may look into how to assist transfer students with their academic transitions to the University.

Table 1. Average Semester Grades Earned by Full-Time Degree Undergraduates by Teaching School/College/Division										
Fall 2013										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Sp/Joint.
GPA	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.3	2.6
Fall 2014										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds. Div
GPA	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.4	2.77
Fall 2015										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds. Div
GPA	3.6	3.29	3.23	3.48	3.41	3.14	3.66	3.26	3.34	n.a
Fall 2016										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
CHrs²	2,964	67,257	31,270	9,844	7,318	8,727	7,398	6,084	3,760	2,268
GPA	3.51	3.32	3.25	3.52	3.45	3.20	3.62	3.38	3.34	3.62
Total	3.34									
Fall 2017										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
CHrs	2,927	66,409	30,971	9,832	7,322	8,842	7,817	6,939	2,862	2,210
GPA	3.58	3.35	3.31	3.54	3.42	3.26	3.61	3.31	3.47	3.58
Total	3.38									
Fall 2018										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
CHrs	3,002	66,571	31,699	10,835	7,957	8,327	7,707	6,740	4,480	2,464
GPA	3.62	3.34	3.31	3.59	3.47	3.21	3.69	3.40	3.45	3.67
Total	3.39									

² Credit Hours

Table 2. Distribution of Grades Awarded in Fall Semester 2018 (split by school is later)					
	A	B	C	D	F
Full-Time Degree Undergraduates	63%	27%	8%	2%	1%
Full-Time New Freshmen	69%	22%	6%	1%	1%

**Table 3. Average Semester Grades Earned by Full-Time Degree
 New Freshman by Teaching School/College/Division**

Fall 2013										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds. Div
GPA	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.3	2.2
Fall 2014										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds. Div
GPA	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.4	2.9
Fall 2015										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds. Div
GPA	3.68	3.29	3.25	3.60	3.35	3.59	3.73	3.68	3.36	n.a
Fall 2016										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds. Div
GPA	3.566	3.35	3.26	3.52	3.35	3.15	3.71	3.41	3.24	n.a
Total	3.35									
Fall 2017										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds. Div
GPA	3.53	3.36	3.37	3.53	3.36	3.19	3.66	3.45	3.40	n.a
Total	3.39									
Fall 2018										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds. Div
GPA	3.59	3.43	3.37	3.46	3.44	3.30	3.73	3.37	3.34	n.a
Total	3.42									

Table 4. Mean Cumulative UM GPA for Full-Time New Freshmen and New Transfers										
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
New Freshman	3.25	3.27	3.3	3.33	3.34	3.34	3.33	3.34	3.39	3.42
New Transfer	2.98	2.28	3.0	3.04	2.98	3.07	3.11	3.11	3.17	3.19

Table 5. Mean Cumulative UM GPA for Full-Time New Freshmen and New Transfers by Their Home School, Fall Semester 2018					
Home School	New Freshmen		New Transfers		Difference in New Freshmen and New Transfers
	Mean Cumulative UM GPA	Number of Students	Mean Cumulative UM GPA	Number of Students	
Architecture	3.59	47	3.49	7	0.10
Arts & Sciences	3.43	814	3.19	225	0.24
Business	3.37	557	3.26	42	0.11
Communication	3.46	165	3.37	82	0.09
Education & Human Dev.	3.44	111	3.09	39	0.35
Engineering	3.30	207	2.89	36	0.41
Rosenstiel School	3.34	106	2.75	6	0.59
Frost School of Music	3.72	133	3.55	11	0.17
Nursing & Health Studies	3.37	178	2.86	25	0.51
TOTAL	3.42	2,318	3.19	474	

Table 6. Fall to Fall Retention Rate Trends New Full-Time Freshmen, and New Transfers 2010-2016									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
New Freshman	89.7%	90.9%	91.4%	91.3%	92.6%	92.1%	90.8%	90.9%	92.4%
New Transfers	81.6%	87.1%	82.5%	90.1%	86.9%	89.4%	90.7%	89.9%	94.2%