

requires 40 instructor contact hours with two hours of preparation required for each hour in class: 40 lessons at 3hrs/lesson = 120 hours = 3.0 credit hours.

GRADING PHILOSOPHY AND GRADING POLICIES

As a critical and essential part of the educational philosophy, it is important to articulate explicitly the Dean's academic grading policies and philosophies.

Grading Philosophy

The foundation of our grading is a commitment to evaluate cadets based on their achievement of announced course objectives. Satisfactory performance on graded course requirements must therefore reflect satisfactory progress toward meeting course objectives. We will establish reasonable academic standards of achievement in advance of cadets taking a course and taking tests. Our goal is not to rank order cadets against each other based on any preconceived concept of an appropriate grade distribution (curving). Instead we challenge cadets to meet announced standards of performance and assign grades based on their success in doing so. The principal responsibility for academic performance rests with each individual cadet.

Policies

Instructors are responsible for providing sound instruction, measurement of cadet attainment, and a reasonable amount of additional assistance. Instructors shall strive to motivate and inspire cadets to achieve their full academic potential. Beyond these obligations, the responsibility for academic success or failure rests with each cadet.

Instructors will provide cadets with a statement of the objectives for each course. Cadets will be evaluated against these objectives. Departments will avoid evaluation and grading practices that encourage reliance on curving.

However compiled numerically, letter grades ranging from A to F will be the standard means of communicating academic achievement.

Instructors will promptly provide cadets an evaluation of each graded course requirement; the evaluation will be a letter grade or a numerical score easily convertible by the cadet to a letter grade.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Regulations for the United States Military Academy state that cadets of the First Class who have been found by the Academic Board successfully to have completed the course of instruction including academic, military, and physical education; to have maintained the standards of conduct; and to possess the moral qualities, traits of character and leadership essential for a graduated cadet; shall receive a diploma signed by the Superintendent, the Commandant of Cadets, and the Dean of the Academic Board; and shall thereupon become a graduate of the United States Military Academy with a degree of Bachelor of Science.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To satisfy the academic portion of these graduation requirements, a cadet must:

- Complete successfully or validate each course in the core curriculum, including the common core courses and a core engineering sequence
- Satisfy the requirements of at least one major
- Successfully complete 40 academic courses of at least 3.0 credit hours each. Validated and remedial courses cannot count towards this requirement and
- Achieve a 2.00 Cumulative Quality Point Average (CQPA) in the courses above. The CQPA is an index of cumulative performance in all academic, military science, and physical education courses. It generally corresponds to grade point average (GPA) or grade point ratio (GPR) in other colleges and universities.

As part of the West Point experience, a cadet is required to complete requirements and achieve minimum standards in three developmental programs within the USMA West Point Leader Development System (WPLDS). Within the WPLDS, the military program score (MPS), the physical program score (PPS), and the academic program score (APS) combine to form the cadet performance score (CPS). A complete explanation of the calculation of the CPS, which

ultimately determines a cadet's class rank, can be found at this link ([CPS Calculation](#)). The APS is based on performance in courses within the Academic Program and does not include military science and physical education courses. Cadets who are deficient in one or more of the three developmental programs for failure to maintain minimum program performance standards may be considered by the Academic Board for separation. Graduation requirements for all three programs — academic, military and physical — and institutional (non-program) requirements by class year are available through the following link: Graduation Class of [2019–2020](#)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The primary responsibility for attaining satisfactory academic performance rests with the individual cadet. Cadets must strive to achieve their highest level of academic excellence. To meet this responsibility, cadets have an obligation to know their academic status, manage their time, and establish priorities in such a manner as to accomplish this goal.

The performance of academic duties is a significant part of the process of preparing for the acceptance of the duties and responsibilities of Army officers. The standard for performance of academic duties is the same as that for the performance of officer duties--excellence and one's personal best.

Cadets must achieve a grade of D or better in all required academic (core and academic major), military science, and physical education courses. Grades of N/C (no credit) may be awarded temporarily, but cadets must resolve the circumstances that resulted in the N/C and be awarded a letter grade in order to receive credit for the course.

Examinations

Written Partial Review (WPR): This examination is designed to test knowledge of course material covering specified lessons. Each department will determine the material to be covered the time of the exam and the weight of the exam. Written Partial Reviews may be scheduled during normal class meetings or during Dean's Hour. Cadets who have more than one (more than two in the case of First or Second Class cadets) major graded requirements (WPR, themes, etc.) coming due on the same day may request permission to attend the examination on the alternate day. Responsibility for seeking relief rests with the cadet while the faculty role is one of cooperation in granting permission when reasonably feasible. Relief must be sought 48 hours in advance of the scheduled examination. All cadets may be required to take two examinations on Saturdays during the Dean's Hour.

Term End Examinations (TEE): These examinations, given at the end of the term, test cadets' knowledge of course material presented during that term. The Dean's office will schedule the TEE for each course and every cadet will take the TEE in accordance with the established schedule.

Grading

In general, the academic departments describe the relative weight of their graded course requirements in terms of marks (points). Graded course requirements include, but are not limited to, daily writes, WPR, themes, research papers, computer exercises, and TEE. Early in each course, each instructor should provide a list of the course requirements and their weights. Because there is no standard scale used by all departments for converting marks to grades, cadets should ascertain from their instructors during the first few lessons of each term how the various departments assign grades.

Cadets can view a report of their grades on-line at least four times during each term. The first three reports are interim or progress reports. They are provided after the sixth, tenth, and fifteenth weeks of the term. The fourth report reflects final grades, average for the term, and cumulative average. Copies of the report are available in the Academic Affairs and Registrar Services (AARS), Office of the Dean, during the summer. In accordance with the Privacy Act, cadets must give permission in writing for the Academy to send academic reports to parents or guardians. Reports will be mailed at the end of each term.

After TEE's have been graded, department heads assign final course grades using the A+ to F scale. These final course grades are assigned quality points in accordance with the following table:

Letter Grade	Quality Points	Letter Grade	Quality Points	Letter Grade	Quality Points
A+	4.33	B	3.00	C-	1.67
A	4.00	B-	2.67	D	1.00
A-	3.67	C+	2.33	F	0.00
B+	3.33	C	2.00		

Should a cadet resign or be separated during the term before the first TEE, his or her transcript for all courses will reflect a grade of W (Withdrawn) with no credit awarded. Once the TEE cycle begins, cadets will receive a grade in every course in which they are enrolled.

Minimum Quality Point Averages

In addition to passing each required course, cadets must achieve a minimum CQPA of 2.00 in order to graduate. In order to monitor progress in the Academic Program and to signal substandard achievement, the Academic Board has established performance standards based on APS term (APST) and APS cumulative (APSC). The following table presents the minimally acceptable standards based on APS. Cadets with averages below those stated will be considered deficient in the Academic Program and will be reported to the Academic Board at the end of each term.

MINIMALLY ACCEPTABLE APS:

CLASS YEAR	TERM	APST	APSC
Fourth	First Term	1.67	N/A
	Second Term	1.67	1.70
	STAP	N/A	1.70
Third	First Term	1.67	1.80
	Second Term	1.67	1.90
	STAP	N/A	1.90
Second	First Term	1.67	1.95
	Second Term	1.67	1.95
	STAP	N/A	1.95
First	First Term	1.67	2.00
	Second Term	1.67	2.00
	STAP	N/A	2.00

The APST is based on grades in all courses taken during a semester excluding Military Science and Physical Education. The APSC is based on grades in all courses previously taken at the Academy excluding Military Science and Physical Education except that grades in repeated courses replace prior grades of D and F.

ACADEMIC DEFICIENCIES AND PROBATION

Cadets who fall below the APSC levels shown in the table for the applicable semester will be reported deficient in the Academic Program to the Academic Board at term end. Cadets deficient in APSC may be considered by the Academic Board for separation for failure to attain minimum standards in the Academic Program.

Cadets deficient in APSC who are retained at the Academy will be placed on academic probation for the following term. Cadets whose APST is below 1.67 will also be placed on academic probation for the following term. Cadets are removed from academic probation at the end of the next term in which both their cumulative and term averages exceed the peg points in the table. Grades earned in the Summer Term Academic Program (STAP) may raise the APSC above the required peg point and remove a cadet from probation. In order to be removed from academic probation for term performance (APST failure), however, cadets must achieve better than in a full academic term (16 weeks).

A cadet placed on academic probation is subject to the following measures during the probationary period:

- Mandatory counseling by an assigned academic counselor within two weeks of the start of the current term. Performance reviews following the tenth and fifteenth week grade reports.
- Mandatory review of chain of command duties by the company tactical officer with a view toward reducing time requirements IAW Annex A, USMA Reg 1-1 (Administrative Scheduling Activities) and the Academy Schedule.
- Assessed room tours in lieu of area tours except in cases of Class 1 offenses.

- Subject to reduced privileges which are reviewed monthly relative to progress and adjustment.
- Limited to participation in one extracurricular activity or Corps Squad sport at a time. This will be reviewed monthly and follow the guidelines in the Academy Schedule.
- Ineligible to participate in events which involve the loss of academic time, either class or evening study period (e.g. away trip sections, spectator at home athletic contests, extracurricular activity events [Director of Cadet Activities (DCA) and religious trips], voluntary lectures or films, Cadet Public Relations Council (CPRC), conferences etc.), except for participation in the one extracurricular activity provided for above. Participation in a mandatory educational trip that is required for a course is permitted.
- Not authorized to use the following facilities during evening study period: day room, post movie, and Eisenhower Hall (except to attend mandatory lectures). Cadets on academic probation may purchase take-out food at Grant Hall. No stopping to socialize is authorized. Cadets are not authorized to consume beverages or food while they wait for their order.
- A cadet's privileges may be withdrawn by the company tactical officer upon the request of an instructor if both agree that this course of action is essential to improve the cadet's grades.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

Each academic department offers important supplementary programs and assistance to give cadets specific guidance in academic matters. This guidance assists cadets in overcoming academic weaknesses and in exploiting academic strengths.

Additional Instruction (AI): Academic departments will provide AI on the day it is requested. It is the responsibility of each cadet to request additional instruction. Specific guidance on AI hours and procedures will be provided by each department.

Academic Counseling: The Academic Affairs and Registrar Services (AARS), Office of the Dean, coordinates the faculty based academic counseling programs available to each cadet. Within the Counseling Branch there are counselors available during normal working hours on a walk in basis. They can discuss elective choices, schedules, course changes and overloads and can affect any changes in a cadet's program. One volunteer faculty member serve as a Company Academic Counselor (CAC) for each company and can help cadets on most academic matters or make referrals to the proper authority in the Dean's Office or academic departments. In addition the CAC's have formal academic counseling responsibility for all cadets in each company who have not yet selected a major. Upon selection of a major, cadets are assigned to the Department Academic Counselors (DAC) of the appropriate academic department. Finally, within the cadet chain of command there are the Cadet Company Academic Officer and Sergeant who can advise on the grading system, company tutors, AI and other matters.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The Mounger Writing Center: Located on the second floor of Jefferson Hall, the Mounger Writing Center provides writing assistance for any academic course through the use of experienced staff and faculty and Cadet Writing Fellows.

Center For Enhanced Performance (CEP): The CEP improves student performance and capacity for retention by educating and training cadets in performance enhancement techniques. These techniques can be gained by specialized training provided by the performance enhancement staff and the courses the Center offers each academic term.

- **Peak Performance Program:** This is offered to all cadets who wish to enhance their academic, athletic, and military performance through psychological and mental skills training. The goal is for the cadet to gain the ability to perform at full potential in any performance situation especially under pressure and stress. A variety of skills are taught to include relaxation, effective thinking, goal setting, focus and concentration, visualization and imagery, and team building. Individual sessions are scheduled with the cadet and a performance enhancement trainer. Sessions are tailored to meet the cadet's specific needs.
- **Student Success Course (RS101):** This credit-producing course is designed to improve cadet academic physical and leadership performance at USMA. Mastery of a variety of strategies leads to this goal. Strategies presented include effective thinking, goal setting, time management, textbook study system, concentration, test taking, visualization, memory, note taking and others. The LASSI, the Learning and Study Strategies Inventory, is the pre- and post-course assessment. The strategies mastered are implemented immediately into the cadet's present life at USMA and contribute to life-long learning. The course has five graded assignments and a final pass/no record grade determination.