

FIRST YEAR

First-Year Grading

In the first term and IAP, first-year students are graded on a pass or no-record basis. They receive grades of P, D, or F in all subjects they take, where P indicates C or better performance (C- with modifier used within MIT). First-year students receive no credit for subjects with D or F grades and these subjects do not appear on their transcripts.

In the second term, first-year students are graded on an A, B, C, or no-record basis. They continue to receive no credit for subjects with D or F grades, which do not appear on their transcripts. The A, B, or C grades are used in calculating students' term and cumulative ratings.

First-year grading is designed to ease the transition from high school by giving students time to adjust to factors like increased workloads and variations in academic preparation. Students are encouraged to improve time-management skills and develop more mature attitudes about learning. A, B, and C grades are used during the second term so that students can begin the progression to regular A–F grading in the sophomore year.

Beginning with first-year students entering in fall 2020, students may choose to use P/NR grading in a total of no more than 48 units beginning with a student's second regular semester. These units may be used on any subject, including those to fulfill General Institute or Departmental Requirements. These subjects can add up to no more than 48 units, and all of the units that comprise a subject must be taken under the P/NR grading option. Subjects must be designated and the Registrar notified after final grades are submitted and before the end of the fifth week of the student's next enrolled regular term.

Use of Hidden Grades

MIT's educational policy is to provide "hidden" grades to students for educational and advising purposes only. MIT will not release hidden grades to any outside organization or individual, and these grades are never included on an external transcript. For more information on hidden grades (<https://firstyear.mit.edu/academics-exploration/credit-limits-grading>), see the First Year website.

Credit Limit for First-Year Students

MIT policy states that, in general, a first-year student may not register or receive credit for subjects totaling more than 54 units in the fall term and 60 units in the spring term. The Committee on Academic Performance (CAP) does not grant requests to exceed the credit limit. Credit earned for passing an Advanced Standing Examination will be counted toward the term credit limit unless the exam is taken either in the September or February examination period. ROTC subjects are excluded from this credit limit. Note that

all MIT students are limited to 12 units during the Independent Activities Period in January.

As part of an ongoing experiment, first-year students entering in the fall of 2023 can enroll in up to six additional units of credit designated as First-Year Discovery subjects or First-Year Advising Seminars beyond the regular credit limit. First-Year Discovery subjects are designed for discovering an interest in a new field, major, minor, or HASS concentration. Three units of 12.000 Solving Complex Problems, affiliated with the Terrascope Learning Community, and 6 units of CC.011 Concourse Seminar can also count toward the discovery-focused units.

More information can be found on the Registrar's Office website (<https://registrar.mit.edu/experiment>).