

Grade Report Update: 2022-2023

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The last report of the ad hoc committee on grading, created by Mary Miller, was issued in February 2014. On the basis of this committee's report the faculty voted to have summaries of departments' grades distributed to other departments each year and to have the chair of each department meet with the Dean of Yale College each year to discuss grading strategy. Subsequently this latter requirement was eliminated by vote of the faculty. The committee's recommendation to have grading guidelines was not approved by the faculty. Below is a summary of what has happened since the committee's report.

Table 1 shows that there was a very large increase in the percent A's and A-'s and in the mean GPA in the academic zoom year 2020-2021. These values have decreased slightly in the last two academic year, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, but they are still considerably higher than those in the last pre pandemic academic year, 2018-2019. (The academic year 2019-2020 is not included in the table because it was mostly pass/fail.) The percent A's and A-'s is now 78.97 versus 72.95 in 2018-2019. Since 2010 the percent A's and A-'s has gone from 67.23 percent to 78.97 percent. The percent of B's and lower has fallen from 17.39 percent to 11.27 percent. Looking at the A's only, the percent A's is now 58.26 (versus 48.02 in 2018-2019), so the median grade is now an A.

Table 1
Yale College Grades Since 2010-2011
Values are Percents

Year	A's & A-'s	A's Only	B's and lower	Mean GPA
2010-2011	67.23	40.50	17.39	
2011-2012	67.70	41.25	17.46	
2012-2013	68.09	41.45	16.65	
2013-2014	68.97	42.15	15.91	3.60
2014-2015	69.06	42.14	15.61	3.60
2015-2016	70.13	43.84	15.23	3.61
2016-2017	70.89	44.59	14.82	3.62
2017-2018	71.58	45.81	14.63	3.62
2018-2019	72.95	48.02	14.05	3.64
2020-2021	81.97	61.31	9.25	3.74
2021-2022	79.62	57.86	10.49	3.71
2022-2023	78.97	58.26	11.27	3.70

Denominator excludes CR, Sat., W.

Table 2 shows that there are large differences across the large enrollment subjects, ranging from 52.39 percent for Economics, which has its own guidelines, to 92.37 percent for Hist of Science, Hist of Med. For the others, the range is from 57.36 for Engineering & Applied Science to 92.06 for Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies. Excluded from Table 2 are the languages, art, and music, which may differ from the other subjects regarding grading issues. Also, it should be noted that Philosophy and Psychology have a larger percent of their grades CR than the other subjects, which may distort their percents in Table 2.

The six largest subjects in terms of enrollment are in order Economics, Computer Science, English, Mathematics, History, and Political Science. The range for these six is large, from 52.39 for Economics to 80.79 for English. Economics and Mathematics are close, as are History and English, with the other two in between.

Table 2
Percent A's and A-'s by Subject, 2022-2023

Enrollment greater than 500	
Percent	
52.39	Economics
55.18	Mathematics
55.82	Psychology (17.32% CR)
62.07	Chemistry
63.49	Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry
65.43	Philosophy (14.62% CR)
66.17	Molecular, Cellular & Dev Biol
66.96	Physics
67.94	Astronomy
68.27	Statistics and Data Science
70.82	Computer Science
72.27	Biology
72.44	American Studies
73.41	Environmental Studies
73.66	Earth and Planetary Sciences
74.02	Political Science
74.40	Engineering #5
74.44	Anthropology
77.11	Global Affairs
79.63	History
79.71	Linguistics
80.04	Directed Studies
80.79	English
81.60	Humanities
82.21	African American Studies
82.71	Regional Studies #8
85.43	Ethnicity, Race, & Migration
85.82	Education Studies
92.37	Hist of Science, Hist of Med
Selected Others, less than 500 Enrollments	
57.36	Engineering & Applied Science
61.11	Applied Physics
61.79	Neuroscience
62.25	Cognitive Science
73.91	Sociology
81.91	Ethics, Politics, & Economics
92.06	Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies

Denominator includes CR, Sat., W.