



80% is an A?

The following grading scheme is in place for all undergraduate courses at the University of Toronto:

Undergraduate Grade Scale			
Grade Meanings	Refined Letter Grade Scale	Numerical Scale of Marks	Grade Point Value
Excellent	A +	90-100%	4.0
	A	85-89%	4.0
	A -	80-84%	3.7
Good	B+	77-79%	3.3
	B	73-76%	3.0
	B-	70-72%	2.7
Adequate	C+	67-69%	2.3
	C	63-66%	2.0
	C-	60-62%	1.7
Marginal	D+	57-59%	1.3
	D	53-56%	1.0
	D-	50-52%	0.7
Inadequate	F	0-49%	0.0

At the end of a course, instructors submit a numerical mark between 0 and 100 for each student. On the transcript, these numerical marks appear alongside letter grades and GPA, which are automatically calculated. While numerical marks are the official mark in the course, **a student's GPA is calculated based on the letter grade in a course**, including the plus and minus. In other words, all students receiving a mark between 80% and 84% will receive a 3.7 GPA for the course, while all students receiving a mark between 85% and 100% will receive a GPA for the course of 4.0.

While all marks above 80% indicate excellent performance, grades above 90% – an A+ – indicate a truly outstanding student. When reviewing the performance and the final marks of your best students, particularly in a class of some size, you may wish to **keep in mind both the A and A+ designations**, so that excellence is clearly signaled with an A, and the outstanding students have an outstanding mark visible to all in an A+ (see Section 10.5 of the Academic Handbook).

In the Faculty of Arts & Science, approximately **15% to 35% of students in larger first- and second-year courses can normally be expected to receive a grade of A-, A, or A+**. Smaller courses, and upper year courses in particular, may see a significantly higher proportion of As (up to or above 30-40%) among the final grades. See the Marks Distribution Guidelines in the Academic Handbook for more information (Section 10.3).

If you find that marks in your own courses diverge significantly from the grade meanings defined above or these grade distribution guidelines, you may wish to review the sections in the Academic Handbook addressing the calibration and adjustment of term marks (Sections 5.11, 5.13, and Appendix B) and discuss the matter with your Associate Chair or Program Director.

Please take extra caution when assigning numerical marks that are near the letter grade thresholds. On our grading scale, there are a number of percentage marks where one more percent would shift the student up to the next letter grade range, including 79% and 84%. In these cases, 1% difference can make a sizable difference in the calculated GPA. You may want to give special attention to marks just below the letter grade thresholds to make sure that this 1% difference reflects the level of performance that will be represented by the calculated GPA.

That said, there is no Faculty policy or practice to automatically “round up” such marks, and you should not feel pressured to do so. However, you may wish to decide intentionally whether to leave a mark just under one of these thresholds or to move it up or down.