

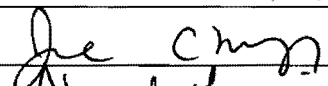
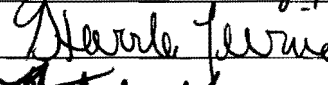
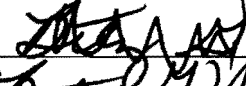
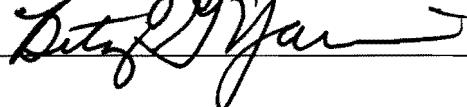
UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE
Academic Policy Cover Sheet

(See Process for Academic Policy Development, Revision or Discontinuance)

INITIATING GROUP / UNIT: LAW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MSB <input type="checkbox"/> YGCLA <input type="checkbox"/> UFS <input type="checkbox"/> Office of the Provost <input type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT NAME: Cheryl Cudzilo PHONE: x4457
POLICY TITLE: Upper Level Grading Range
APPLIES TO: LAW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MSB <input type="checkbox"/> YGCLA <input type="checkbox"/>
SPECIFIC PROGRAM (if applicable): JD
PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE / SEMESTER: Fall 2008

Box 1: ACTION ITEM (check appropriate box)	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED (see box 2 below)	REVIEW / APPROVAL SEQUENCE (see box 3 below)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. New Policy	AB – others as appropriate	ABCDE – varies
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Policy Revision	AB – others as appropriate	ABCDE – varies
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Discontinuance of Existing Policy	AB	ABCDE – varies

Box 2: DOCUMENTATION (check boxes of documents included) (may include documents in addition to required ones)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. AP Cover Sheet (this document)		D. Additional Forms (as may be needed to support procedures)	F. Other (please list)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. AP Proposal Summary		E. Samples of Similar Policies	
<input type="checkbox"/> C. Procedures (as appropriate)			

Box 3: REVIEW / APPROVAL SEQUENCE	SIGNATURES (as appropriate)	DATE
A. School / College Dean		9/2/09
B. Policy Coordinator		9/11/09
C. Academic Policy Review Committee Chair (UFS subcommittee)		
D. University Faculty Senate Chair (UFS option)		11/2/09
E. Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs		
F. Attorney General's Office	Signature not required. If AG review is necessary, the date of approval may be received via e-mail and would be added by the Policy Coordinator.	
G. 10-Day Open Comment Period		
H. President		
I. USM / Board of Regents – approval	Signature not required. If USM review is necessary, the date of approval would be added by the Policy Coordinator.	

Academic Policy Proposal Summary

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I. Statement of Purpose:

To standardize grading practices in upper level courses.

II. Policy (including authority for policy waiver, exclusions, or sanctions, if any) can be attached if too lengthy for this box.

Upper Level Required & Open Enrollment Courses

Upper level required courses and open enrollment courses shall average between 3.0 and 3.5 if the course has 11 or more enrolled. For courses with 10 or fewer students, this average is recommended.

Limited Enrollment Courses

Upper level limited enrollment courses (including clinics, seminars and workshops) shall average between 3.0 and 3.67 if the course has 11 or more enrolled. For courses with 10 or fewer students, this average is recommended.

III. Reason(s) for Proposed Policy

For the spring 2007 and fall 2006 semesters, the average upper level required course had an average GPA of 3.03 and 3.02; open enrollment average course grades have been 3.30 and 3.28. For these last 2 semesters the average grade in upper level limited enrollment courses have been 3.63 and 3.64.

Some faculty have in the past given grades higher than this new grading range. During the last semester, for example, 9 courses gave an average grade of 4.0. One adjunct faculty member gave As to all 47 of his students. An additional 7 courses awarded more than a 3.9 average, and an additional 10 courses awarded more than a 3.8 average.

In addition, some faculty have in the past given grades lower than this new grading range. For the Spring 2007 semester, 10 of 60 upper level required or open enrollment courses, and 4 of 80 limited enrollment courses, gave average grades that were less than 3.0. In addition, another 5 of the 80 limited enrollment courses gave grades that were between a 3.00 and a 3.24. For the Fall 2006 semester, 11 of 55 upper level required or open enrollment courses, and 2 of 64 limited enrollment courses, gave average grades that were less than 3.0. In addition, another 4 of the 64 limited enrollment courses gave grades that were between a 3.00 and a 3.24.

According to a 2005 AALS study, of 145 reporting law schools that responded, 79% have a formal grading policy and, of these, 85% apply their grading policy to upper level courses.

The Committee decided that, even though these average grade ranges are very large, it could be difficult to apply them to exceptionally small classes. We somewhat arbitrarily decided to adopt 10 as the cutoff. It should, however, be noted that during the last semester 40/83 upper level limited enrollment courses had 10 or fewer students; so did 9/58 open enrollment courses. These courses would be exempt from the new mandatory requirements. If we made the cutoff 5 students, however, then all but 9 and 12 courses would have been covered during the last two semesters.

Note: Even for these small courses the grade ranges would be in effect as "recommended guidelines". Faculty would not need approval from the Associate Dean if they desire not to follow the recommended guideline.

Academic Policy Proposal Summary (Page 2)

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CONTACT NAME:	Cheryl Cudzilo	PHONE:	x4457
POLICY TITLE:	Upper Level Grading Range		
PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE / SEMESTER:	Fall 2008		

IV. Current Policy (if proposal is a revision or discontinuance), including date of adoption if available, can be attached if too lengthy for this box.

n/a

V. Other (who was consulted, definition of terms, etc.)

This policy was approved by Academic Standards Committee and the full faculty in fall 2007.