


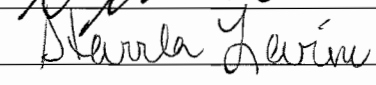
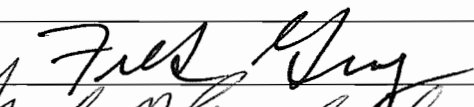
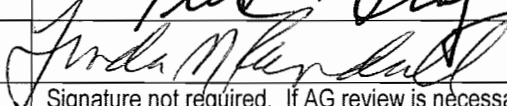
UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE
Academic Policy Cover Sheet

(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: Mandatory Grading Range for First Year Courses
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 2007

Box 1: ACTION ITEM (check appropriate box)	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED (see box 2 below)	REVIEW / APPROVAL SEQUENCE (see box 3 below)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. New Policy	AB – others as appropriate	ABCDE – varies
<input checked="" 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		5-21-07
B. Policy Coordinator		5-22-07
C. Academic Policy Review Committee Chair (UFS subcommittee--CRC)		
D. University Faculty Senate Chair (UFS option)		6-5-07
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

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
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APPLIES TO:	LAW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MSB <input type="checkbox"/> YGCLA <input type="checkbox"/>		
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I. Statement of Purpose: To raise the first-year curve from a mean of 2.25-2.75 to a mean of 2.67-3.00.

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

MANDATORY GRADING RANGE FOR FIRST YEAR COURSES

In order to make grades as consistent as possible within administrative and pedagogical constraints, the School of Law has established the following policy.

Effective with the 2007 fall semester, all sections of Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, and Torts shall be subject to a mandatory grading range. Under the mandatory grading range, each faculty member teaching a section of any of these courses shall have an average grade for the section taught by that faculty member, i.e., the arithmetic average of all of the grades assigned to students in the section, that is no lower than 2.67 and is no higher than 3.00.

Faculty members teaching any of these courses shall submit their grades to the academic administrator approved by the Dean prior to submission of the final grades to PeopleSoft or the Registrar. Such early submission will permit verification that the grades are within the mandatory grading range. In the event that the average grade for the section(s) taught by the faculty member is lower than 2.67 or higher than 3.00, the grade roster(s) shall be returned to the faculty member for appropriate adjustments that ensure compliance with the mandatory grading range, prior to submission of the grades to the Registrar. If the faculty member does not want to make adjustments, the faculty member may turn over the raw data to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, or his or her designee, to make the necessary adjustments. After the grades have been submitted and posted on PeopleSoft in conformance with this rule, subsequent grade changes will not be considered in determining the class average.

The grades considered for purposes of the mandatory grade range will not include Incompletes (I) or Not Reported (NR) because a student did not take the exam or for some reason, the exam was not graded.

A faculty member who teaches more than one section of any of these courses and gives identical exams for the sections may use the average grade for all of the sections taught by that faculty member, i.e., the arithmetic average of all of the grades assigned to students in of all of the sections taught by that faculty member, to determine whether the grades are in compliance with the mandatory grade range. The faculty may revise this policy for administrative or pedagogical reasons at any time before grades are recorded. Such changes could be effective for the semester in which they are made. Therefore, students should not rely on this policy in deciding how to study for any course.

III. Reason(s) for Proposed Policy

This change will bring the School of Law's curve in line with other law schools (including Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania) so that our students can compete on a level playing field for employment. Additionally, the average LSAT score of incoming students has consistently risen over the last few years, resulting in higher caliber students. Further, in recent years, most mean first-year grades have been modestly or slightly under the current 2.75 cap. This indicates that the bottom of the current curve is not being used by the majority of first-year professors and therefore, is not necessary.

Academic Policy Proposal Summary (Page 2)

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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.

MANDATORY GRADING RANGE FOR FIRST YEAR COURSE

In order to make grades as consistent as possible within administrative and pedagogical constraints, the School of Law has established the following policy. The faculty may revise this policy for administrative or pedagogical reasons at any time before grades are recorded. Such changes could be effective for the semester in which they are made. Therefore, students should not rely on this policy in deciding how to study for any course.

Effective with the 2001 fall semester, all sections of Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, and Torts shall be subject to a mandatory grading range.

Under the mandatory grading range, each faculty member teaching a section of any of these courses shall have an average grade for the section taught by that faculty member, i.e., the arithmetic average of all of the grades assigned to students in the section, that is no lower than 2.250 and is no higher than 2.750.

Faculty members teaching any of these courses shall submit their grades to the Associate Dean for Enrollment and Student Services, or his or her designee, prior to submission of the final grades to PeopleSoft or the Registrar. Such early submission will permit verification that the grades are within the mandatory grading range. In the event that the average grade for the section(s) taught by the faculty member is lower than 2.250 or higher than 2.750, the grade roster(s) shall be returned to the faculty member for appropriate adjustments that ensure compliance with the mandatory grading range, prior to submission of the grades to the Registrar. If the faculty member does not want to make adjustments, the faculty member may turn over the raw data to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, or his or her designee, to make the necessary adjustments. After the grades have been submitted and posted on PeopleSoft in conformance with this rule, subsequent grade changes will not be considered in determining the class average.

The grades considered for purposes of the mandatory grade range will not include F's incompletes, or NR given because a student did not take the exam or for some reason, the exam was not graded.

A faculty member who teaches more than one section of any of these courses and gives identical exams for the sections may use the average grade for all of the sections taught by that faculty member, i.e., the arithmetic average of all of the grades assigned to students in of all of the sections taught by that faculty member, to determine whether the grades are in compliance with the mandatory grade range.

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

The new Mandatory Grading Range was developed and approved by the School of Law Academic Standards Committee, chaired by Professor Michele Gilman. The membership included several tenured faculty members, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs as well as the Associate Dean for Enrollment Management and Student Services. On May 1, the School of Law Faculty Council approved the measure by an overwhelming majority.