Grades and Credits

1. Credits

In Argentina the workload of a course is measured in hours (60-minute hours), which are in fact contact hours – hours the students spend in class with the professor/s. The number of contact hours is a curricular decision so the number of hours may vary from one course to another. The time the students spend reading the course materials, working on projects or assignments, studying for exams, etc., is not measured in any specific way although it is estimated that students devote about two hours for every hour they spend in class.

Based on the assumption that in many American universities, one credit or unit is 12.5 hours or 750 minutes (50 minutes of class per week throughout a 15-week semester), the following formula is used at Austral to convert hours into U.S. credits/units:

$$\textbf{\textit{Total Hours / 12.5} = \textbf{\textit{1 Credit}}} \quad \underline{OR} \quad \textit{(Total Hours x 60) / 750 = 1 Credit}$$

The European Credit Transfer System factors in both the contact hours and the out-of-class work. Since this way to measure the workload of a class is not a practice HEI's in Argentina are familiarized with, we have opted to use a *triangular method*. The hours are translated into U.S. credits and the U.S. credits into European credits (ECTS). Since many HEI's in the United States and in Europe consider 1 U.S. credit to be equivalent to 2 ECTS, the conversion from hours to ECTS is as follows:

$$\textbf{\textit{Total Hours / 6.25} = \textbf{\textit{1 ECTS}}} \quad \underline{OR} \quad \textit{(Total Hours x 60) / 375 = 1 ECTS}$$

The criteria and formulae above may differ from the ones used by other institutions across the Globe. If so, we encourage our partners to make the necessary adjustments to allow for a more accurate credit transfer.

2. Grading Scale

Argentina	Others
10	A
9	A-
8	B+
7	B
6	B-
5	C+
4	C
3, 2, 1	FAIL

We are aware that some institutions have somewhat different grading scales: they may include other grades, a different passing grade, etc. The chart above is a reference. Grades are more accurately transferred after considering what each grade represents in Argentina.

3. Grade Descriptors

10 (Outstanding)

- The student has demonstrated thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skill or great originality in the use of those concepts, techniques to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.
- Excellent and outstanding performance with only negligible errors.
- The student shows an outstanding and comprehensive grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and competencies required by the syllabus.
- The work fulfills all requirements in every respect. Writing is at a high level. The work is exceptional in its information content. Not only is it interesting, but also shows insight and creativity indicative of much effort and excellent writing skills.
- The student has demonstrated fulfillment of the requirements of the course to a high degree of academic performance as shown by both an intelligent grasp and superior critical appreciation of the subject matter.
- The work is fully referenced and all sources are cited.

9 (Excellent)

- The work shows a thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques with a high degree of skill and/or some elements of originality in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.
- The student shows an excellent grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and competences required by the syllabus.
- The work fulfills all requirements. Writing is at a very good level. The work is interesting and flows logically and demonstrates a very good effort on the part of the student.
- The work is fully referenced and all sources are cited.

8 (Very Good Plus)

- The student has a thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques with a fairly high degree of skill in the use of those concepts, techniques to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.
- The student shows a good grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and abilities required by the syllabus
- The student has fulfilled the requirements set for the course to a degree above satisfactory performance as shown by both an intelligent grasp and critical appreciation of the subject matter.

7 (Very Good)

- Good level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

- The student demonstrates a fairly good grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and abilities required for the module.
- The work is fully referenced and all sources are cited.

6-5 (Good - Slightly better than pass)

- The student has an acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.
- The student demonstrates a reasonable grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and competencies required for the module.
- The student has satisfactorily fulfilled the requirements set for the course as shown by a fairly intelligent grasp of the course content.
- The work is fully referenced and all sources are cited.

4 (Pass)

- The student has an average level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with some skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.
- The student shows that he/she has grasped the basic and key concepts, knowledge, skills and competencies required for the module.
- The work superficially addresses the topic.
- The work is fully referenced and all sources are cited.
- Quantitatively the 4 (four) represents a 60% of the overall points allocated to an exam or assignment.

3 (Fail)

- The work does not fulfill the minimum course requirements.
- The student's knowledge is below average and has only a minimal knowledge of required concepts and/or techniques together with below average ability to use the in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.
- The student shows a limited grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and competencies required for the module.
- Writing is a little difficult to follow. The work may contain too many irrelevant topics/facts. There are a few grammatical, stylistic, or spelling errors.
- The work contains some references and most sources are cited.

OR

- The student has insufficient knowledge of the subject and does not satisfy the requirements of the assignment or the course.
- The work only just meets minimum requirements. The student shows a very limited grasp of the concepts and basic knowledge of the subject. There is inconsistent application and demonstration of knowledge. There are many typographical errors

and many mistakes in the grammar, spelling and punctuation. The written expression is weak.

- The work contains some references and but not all of the sources are cited.

2 (Fail)

- The work does not fulfill the minimum course requirements.
- The student has below the minimal knowledge required to satisfy the requirements for the assignment or course. The work does not address the assignment topic. The work is poorly written and contains serious grammar and spelling mistakes.
- The work is unsatisfactory. It does not meet minimum requirements. There is little or no sign of awareness of the knowledge, principles and concepts required. There are frequent and serious grammar, spelling, punctuation, or typographical errors that distort meaning.
- There is evident carelessness, or failure to complete the assignment according to directions.
- A student who obtains a grade in this category will need to redo the assignment, the exam or the whole module.
- The work is not fully referenced and the majority of sources are not cited.

<u>OR</u>

- Very insufficient.
- The work is totally unsatisfactory and well below the standards required for the program.
- There are many language mistakes, which may lead to confusion, and the professor may not understand what the student is trying to demonstrate. There is no sign of understanding of the knowledge, concepts and techniques required.
- A student who obtains a grade in this category will need to redo the assignment, the exam or the whole module.
- The work is not referenced and none of the sources are cited.

1 (Fail)

- The student did not submit the work.
- The student did not answer the question/s asked.
- The student has no knowledge of the subject.
- The entire piece of work has been copied or plagiarized.
- A student who obtains a grade in this category will need to redo the assignment, the exam or the whole module.
- The work is not referenced and none of the sources are cited.