

## Reasons Why WKU Should Adopt a Plus/Minus Grading System: (By Brian Strow)

1. The academic literature suggests a plus/minus grading system more accurately captures student performance and is a better grading tool than a straight A,B,C,D,F scale. See "the Educational Process and Student Achievement Given Uncertainty in Measurement" by William Becker, Jr.

*The American Economic Review, Volume 72, Issue 1 (Mar., 1982), 229-236.*

2. A plus/minus grading system gives professors more flexibility in assigning grades. In economics, an 88% student has more in common with a 91% student than with an 81% student and their grades should reflect that.

3. Top schools nationwide use a plus/minus grading system.

### 19 out of the top 20 National Universities Use a Plus/Minus Grading System

US News National Rank	University	Grading System	Grading Scale
1	Princeton	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2, C- = 1.7, D = 1, F = 0
2	Harvard	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.67, B+ = 3.33, B = 3, B- = 2.67, C+ = 2.33, C = 2, C- = 1.67, D = 1, F = 0
3	CIT	plus/minus	
4	Duke	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.8, B+ = 3.5, B = 3, B- = 2.8, C+ = 2.5, C = 2, C- = 1.8, D = 1, F = 0
5	Yale	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.67, B+ = 3.33, B = 3, B- = 2.67, C+ = 2.33, C = 2, C- = 1.67, D = 1, F = 0
6	MIT	plus/minus	A+ = 4.0 A = 4.0, A- = 4.0 B+ = 3, B = 3, B- = 3 C+ = 2.0, C = 2 C- = 2 D = 1.0, F = 0
7	Stanford	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2, C- = 1.7, D = 1, F = 0
8	Pennsylvania	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2, C- = 1.7, D = 1, F = 0
9	Dartmouth	plus/minus	
10	Columbia	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2, C- = 1.7, D = 1, F = 0
11	Northwestern	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2, C- = 1.7, D = 1, F = 0
12	U of Chicago	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2, C- = 1.7, D = 1, F = 0
13	WashingtonStLou	plus/minus	
14	Cornell	plus/minus	

15	Johns Hopkins	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2, C- =1.7, D = 1, F = 0
16	Rice	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2, C- =1.7, D = 1, F = 0
17	Brown	A,B,C,D,F	A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, D = 1.0, F = 0
18	Emory	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2, C- =1.7, D = 1, F = 0
19	Notre Dame	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.67, B+ = 3.33, B = 3, B- = 2.67, C+ = 2.33, C = 2, C- =1.67, D = 1, F = 0
20	UC Berkeley	plus/minus	A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2, C- =1.7, D = 1, F = 0

Eight of the benchmark institutions used by Academic Affairs have a Plus/Minus Grading System

These include:

- Appalachian State University
- Ball State University
- Eastern Michigan University
- Indiana State University
- Northern Michigan University
- University of Northern Iowa
- West Chester University of Pennsylvania
- Western Carolina University

**Other Universities of note who use a Plus/Minus grading system include:**

- Centre College
- University of Akron
- University of Toledo
- Kent State
- James Madison University
- Miami University of Ohio

**4. Yes Banner can handle it!**