



2020-2021 Grading Policy

Delta High School uses a standards-referenced grading system. Each graded assignment is based on state standards, national standards, and/or college readiness standards. A single piece of student work can target a large number of standards, or it may take numerous pieces of work to target and meet a single standard.

Students earn grades on a 4-point scale. The following are the meanings of individual assignment grades listed in PowerSchool, our electronic grading system:

Grade	Meaning
4	Advanced Above Grade Level Standard
3	Proficient Meets Grade Level Standard
2	Emerging Approaching Grade Level Standard
0	Not Yet Approaching Proficiency

4 – Advanced

Students achieving at the advanced level demonstrate greater academic performance. Advanced work indicates an in-depth understanding or exemplary display of the skills that are included in the identified standards.

These students:

- Demonstrate broad, in-depth understanding of complex concepts and skills
- Make abstract, insightful, complex connections among ideas beyond the obvious
- Provide extensive evidence for inferences and justification of solutions
- Demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge and skills effectively and independently by applying efficient, sophisticated strategies to solve complex problems
- Communicate effectively and thoroughly, with sophistication

3 – Proficient

Students achieving at the proficient level demonstrate satisfactory academic performance. Proficient work indicates solid understanding or display of the skills included in the identified standards. This is acceptable grade-level performance.

These students:

- Can extend their understandings by making meaningful, multiple connections among important ideas or concepts and provide supporting evidence for inferences and justification of solutions
- Apply concepts and skills to solve problems using appropriate strategies
- Communicate effectively

2 – Emerging

Students achieving at the emerging level demonstrate up-and-coming academic performance. Emerging students indicate a partial understanding or display of the skills included in the identified standards. Students achieving at this level are approaching acceptable performance but need additional instructional opportunities to achieve proficiency.

These students:

- Demonstrate partial understanding of basic concepts and skills
- Make basic connections among ideas, providing limited supporting evidence for inferences and solutions
- Apply concepts and skills to routine problem-solving situations
- Communicate in a limited fashion

0 – Not Yet Approaching Proficiency

A zero is earned for assignments that do not yet approach the required proficiency level (“2”).

Students who are achieving at this beginning level demonstrate a clear need for additional instructional opportunities to show learning. Students achieving at the beginning level indicate little understanding or display of the skills included in the identified standards.

These students:

- Demonstrate little understanding of the concepts and skills associated with the Washington State standards
- Occasionally make obvious connections among ideas, providing minimal evidence or support for inferences and solutions
- Have difficulty applying basic knowledge and skills
- Communicate in an ineffective manner
- Will likely have difficulty with subsequent material or courses that build upon the current course. Remediation and intervention are necessary

0 plus “M” (Missing)

This grade is entered for assignments which are not attempted or completed. If you see a zero with a “M” in the online gradebook, it means the student did not turn in the assignment.

Final Course Grades

A student's final grade will be calculated as an average of all final standards grades. Each standard included in a final grade is assessed a minimum of three times within the trimester. A final score is calculated for each standard; please see the specific course syllabus for the method used to determine your final standards grade in that class. Not all standards are assessed all trimesters. In addition, teachers frequently weight summative assessments, such as large projects and end of unit exams, accounting for a larger percentage of the student's final grade on specific standards. All final standard scores are averaged to compute a final course grade. It is important to recognize that averaging standards' scores does not provide a detailed picture of a student's progress. For example, a student may have earned 4s on six standards, indicating advanced learning, and 2s on two standards, indicating emerging learning. This student's average would be 3.5, which would result in a final grade of "B+." However, this does not paint a clear picture that the student is excelling in some areas but struggling in others. In this case, while the final grade is excellent, additional targeted tutoring may be appropriate.

Final grades follow the 4-point GPA scale, which is the same scale used by colleges and universities to calculate Grade Point Averages. This GPA score can be converted to a Traditional Letter Grade, as shown below. Only letter grades are recorded on a students' final transcripts, in accordance with Washington State law.

Final Grade	Traditional Letter Grade	Mastery Level Achieved
4.00	A	Advanced
3.70	A-	
3.30	B+	Proficient
3.00	B	
2.70	B-	
2.30	C+	Emerging
2.00	C	
0.00	F	Beginning or No Evidence of Learning

A final course grade of 0.00 (or "F") earns no credit for the course. Lost credits may be retrieved through summer school or other available programs. Dependent on space availability, the student may reenroll in the course in a subsequent year at Delta.

Late Work

Late work at school, in college, and in the workforce is largely unacceptable. Students need to manage their time in a way that enables them to finish their best work on time.

Assignments should be turned in on time in order to receive maximum credit. Late work MAY be accepted for full or partial credit at the discretion of the individual teacher, and is generally only accepted when there has been evidence of effort prior to the deadline on the part of the student.

“Effort” at Delta High School means:

- Coming to class prepared to work
- Completion of all assignments
- Quality use of class time
- Asking for help from peers
- Asking for help from the teacher during class
- Asking for help from the teacher, outside of class
- Showing evidence of attempting and/or completing homework
- Persisting through multiple attempts at a task/assessment
- Showing a positive attitude toward work completion

Late work will not be accepted after the end of the grading period except in cases of extenuating circumstances, and only when approved in advance by the principal. In these rare cases, an “Incomplete” may be given as a final course grade. Incompletes are only valid for two weeks. If course requirements are not met within the two-week period, the Incomplete will become a 0.0 and no credit will be earned for the course. In such cases, the student may need to retrieve the credit through summer school or other available programs.