

MIDTERM GRADING FAQ's FOR STUDENTS

1. What is a midterm grade?

For the fall 2025 and spring 2026 semesters, midterm grades will be given in a few sections at UMaine as part of a pilot project. The project will be assessed to determine whether midterm grading helps students improve their academic performance and GPA. Students in these sections who have a class average of C- or below will receive a midterm grade. The project is organized by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Dean's Office and funded by the Harold Alfond Foundation through UMS TRANSFORMS.

2. What is the purpose of this midterm grading?

Midterm grading can provide students with valuable information about their academic standing in a class so that they can take appropriate action. Often, students will be able to improve their grade so that they are en route to a passing grade at the end of the semester. If that is not possible, they may consider withdrawing from the class (see #9 below).

3. Why is my class part of the grading project?

The courses involved have been identified as Gateway courses. Gateway courses are typically prerequisites for other courses, or are required for some other reason. A specific section being selected *is not, in any way*, a reflection on the students in the class.

4. Are all class sections of my course participating in the midterm grading pilot?

No. Only a few sections of each participating Gateway course are included. There are 25 participating sections in the fall 2025 semester and 20 sections in spring 2026.

5. When will the midterm grading take place?

Midterm grade reporting will occur approximately 8 weeks into the semester, before the deadlines of November 14, 2025 (fall) and April 10, 2026 (spring) for withdrawing from a class with a W.

6. What happens if my midterm average in this class is C- or below?

Your grade will be recorded in MaineStreet as a D (for C-, D+, D, or D-) or F, and alerts will be sent via Navigate as text and/or email. You will be contacted by Madelyn Kohr, a graduate assistant (GA) in the CLAS Dean's Office, who will offer guidance, support, and connection with resources to improve your academic performance. Your faculty or staff advisor may also contact you.

7. What should I do if I receive a midterm grade of D or F?

- Don't panic!
- Get in touch with your instructor to make sure you understand why you received a midterm grade and get their advice on how to improve your situation in the course. If

your grade was recorded as a D, remember that it covers all grades from C- to D-. Check with your instructor if you aren't certain what your actual grade is.

- Check for an email or text from Madelyn Kohr inviting you to connect with her for further support and connection with resources relevant to your course. You can also reach out to Madelyn (madelyn.kohr@maine.edu) at any point.
- Visit UMaine's Student Success Hub online at <https://umaine.edu/studentsuccesshub/> for a comprehensive list of our university's student support resources.

8. What is the difference between withdrawing from a class for a W and receiving an F or an L?

W, F, and L grades all appear on the transcript. A W indicates that the course has been taken but not completed. It does not affect a student's GPA, unlike an F or an L. An L indicates that the student left the course without withdrawing from it. It is equivalent to an F (zero grade points) for GPA purposes.

9. When should I consider withdrawing from a class?

When a student is not going to be able to achieve a passing grade in a course, they can protect their GPA by withdrawing from the course before the deadline: November 14, 2025 (fall) and April 10, 2026 (spring). A W will not negatively affect the GPA, whereas an F or an L will. Before you decide to withdraw from a course, confer with your instructor to make sure that you have a full understanding of your situation in the class and your options to improve your grade. It's also a good idea to check with the Office of Student Financial Aid. Some types of scholarship aid may require a minimum number of credits in a semester.

10. What grade do I need in my course?

It depends on the course and the reason you are taking it. For example, ENG 101 fulfills the university's writing requirement only with a grade of C or higher. If you are taking MAT 126 as a prerequisite for MAT 127, you will need a C in MAT 126. If you are taking MAT 126 just to fulfill the core (general education) requirement for quantitative literacy, any passing grade (D- or higher) will suffice. Some majors that require MAT 126 stipulate a minimum grade, usually a C; other majors accept any passing grade. Other Gateway courses may be used in a variety of ways with different applicable minimum grades. So: ask your advisor unless you are 100% sure what minimum grade you need.

11. What if I can't improve my average enough to earn the necessary minimum grade?

You can make an informed decision regarding withdrawal from your class. Check #9 above. If you decide to withdraw from a required class, make sure you talk with your advisor about how you will complete the requirement.

12. Will the midterm grades be on my transcript?

No, your midterm grade will not appear on your transcript or affect your GPA. You will be able to view the grade in MaineStreet, though.

13. What if I did not receive a midterm grade?

That means that your midterm average in the course is a C or above. Good for you!

14. Who can help me if I have a question that is not in this FAQ?

Please email GA Madelyn Kohr (madelyn.kohr@maine.edu). If she doesn't know the answer, she will find out or connect you with someone who does.