

University of Victoria - School of Social Work Undergraduate Grading Rubric

Please note: The University of Victoria Undergraduate Grading Scale applies to all undergraduate programs: <https://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html>

The School of Social Work Grading Rubric is intended to provide additional detail for instructors and students.

Students should also consult the [School 's Assessment of Student Learning Policy](#), which contains additional information about grading.

Grade A+ **Exceptional 90 - 100% **Midpoint 95%****

Grade Term Statement

Work is uniformly exemplary in content, organization, analysis, and presentation. As per the University of Victoria Undergraduate Grading Scale, grades in the "A" range are normally achieved by a very small number of students.

Achievement of Assignment Objective(s)

Exceptional work of the highest quality that fully meets all of the assignment objective(s) or criteria.

Analysis Scope

Work demonstrates sophisticated and creative critical analysis, including (where required by the assignment) detailed and specific critical reflection on positionality (social/political location), as well as nuanced consideration of relevant contexts and ideologies. Explicit and specific connections are drawn between the personal and the political. The critical analysis integrates relevant and high quality references and source materials, including materials beyond those assigned.

Integration of Theory, Knowledge, and Practice

Work exceeds expectations with regard to integration of course materials, includes creative integration of additional relevant references and source material, and demonstrates both comprehensiveness and complexity. Explicit, detailed and nuanced connections are drawn between theory models and professional practice and/or social policy. Arguments, assertions or contentions are supported with relevant and specific evidence and/or illustrations. There is considerable evidence of creativity, originality of thought, and/or well-developed analyses, interpretations or critiques.

Organization, Language, and/or Writing

Work represents an exemplary level of academic writing, such that it could be submitted for publication in a newsletter, website or minor non-refereed journal or, if a presentation, could be offered at a conference. Specific criteria for this grade level include:

- Exceptional organization, structure and coherence: ideas, concepts, and principles are presented in a thoughtful and consistent fashion.

- Use of clear language, with all technical terms and/or jargon defined or explained in the body of the work.
- Quotations are kept to a minimum and where used, they are very well contextualized within the student's own thinking.
- Technically flawless in grammar, spelling and referencing (in-text citations and reference list).
- Falls within the specified word/page limit or, if a presentation, within the allotted time frame.

Grade A **Excellent 85 - 89% Midpoint 87%**

Grade Term Statement

Generally excellent in content, organization, analysis, and presentation. Grades in the "A" range are normally achieved by a very small number of students.

Achievement of Assignment Objective(s)

Reflects excellent achievement of all of the assignment objective(s).

Analysis Scope

Work demonstrates an excellent level of critical analysis, including (where required by the assignment) detailed critical reflection on the student's positionality (social/political location). The analysis integrates relevant references/ source materials, including some beyond those assigned in the course.

Integration of Theory, Knowledge, and Practice

Work demonstrates comprehensiveness, complexity, and excellent integration of sources. Personal engagement with the topic is complex and nuanced, with explicit and relevant connections drawn between the personal and the political. Clear connections are drawn between theory models and professional practice and/or social policy. Matters of context and ideology are addressed with specificity. Arguments, assertions or contentions are supported with relevant and specific evidence and/or illustrations. There is strong evidence of creativity, originality of thought, and/or well-developed analyses, interpretations or critiques.

Organization, Language, and/or Writing

Work represents an excellent level of academic writing. With minor revisions, work could be submitted for publication in a newsletter, website or minor non-refereed journal or, if a presentation, could be offered at a conference. Specific criteria for this grade level include:

- Excellent organization, structure and coherence: ideas, concepts, and principles are presented in a thoughtful and consistent fashion.
- Use of clear language, with all technical terms and/or jargon defined or explained in the body of the work.
- Quotations kept to a minimum and where used, they are well contextualized within the student's own thinking.
- Contains a few very minor errors in grammar, spelling and referencing (in-text citations and reference list).
- Falls within the specified word/page limit or, if a presentation, within the allotted time frame.

Grade A- Superior 80 - 84% Midpoint 82%

Grade Term Statement

Very strong in terms of content, organization, analysis, and language. Several aspects of the assignment may be excellent. Grades in the “A” range are normally achieved by a very small number of students.

Achievement of Assignment Objective(s)

Reflects superior achievement of all of the assignment objective(s).

Analysis Scope

Work demonstrates a high level of critical analysis, including (where required by the assignment) detailed critical reflection on positionality (social/political location).

Integration of Theory, Knowledge, and Practice

Work demonstrates comprehensiveness, complexity, depth and very good integration of all assigned sources. The critical analysis includes integration of relevant and appropriate references and clear linkages between theory models and professional practice and/or social policy. Matters of context and ideology are addressed. Explicit and relevant connections are drawn between the personal and the political. Arguments, assertions or contentions are supported with relevant and specific evidence and/or illustrations. There is some evidence of creativity or originality of thought or well-developed interpretations or critiques.

Organization, Language, and/or Writing

Work represents a very good level of academic writing, but would require revision if it were submitted for publication in a newsletter, website or minor non-refereed journal or, if a presentation, offered at a conference. Specific criteria for this grade level include:

- Very good organization, structure and coherence: ideas, concepts, and principles are presented in a thoughtful and consistent fashion.
- Use of clear language, with almost all technical terms and/or jargon defined or explained in the body of the work.
- Quotations kept to a minimum and where used, they are contextualized within the student’s own thinking.
- Contains a few minor errors in grammar, spelling and referencing (in-text citations and reference list).
- Falls within or very close to the specified word/page limit or, if a presentation, very close to or within the allotted time frame.

Grade B+ Very Good 77 - 79% Midpoint 78%

Grade Term Statement

Represents work of very good quality with no major weaknesses. There are some flaws or omissions in content, organization, analysis, or language. Grades in the “B” range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.

Achievement of Assignment Objective(s)

Reflects good achievement of all of the assignment objective(s).

Analysis Scope

Work demonstrates sound critical analysis, including (where required by the assignment) specific critical reflection on positionality (social/political location).

Integration of Theory, Knowledge, and Practice

Work represents a good level of integration of sources, as well as comprehensiveness, depth, and complexity. Strong personal engagement with the topic is demonstrated, and some relevant and clear connections are drawn between the personal and political. The critical analysis includes integration of assigned references and resources, as well as linkages between theory models and professional practice and/or social policy. Matters of context and ideology are addressed. Arguments, assertions or contentions are to some extent supported with relevant evidence and/or illustrations.

Organization, Language, and/or Writing

Work represents a very good level of academic writing. Specific criteria for this grade level include:

- Good organization, structure and coherence: ideas, concepts, and principles are presented in a consistent fashion.
- Use of clear language, though some technical terms and/or jargon may not be defined or explained in the body of the work.
- Where quotations are used, they are contextualized within the student’s own thinking.
- Contains several minor errors in grammar, spelling and referencing (in-text citations and reference list).
- Falls close to the specified word/page limit or, if a presentation, close to the allotted time frame.

Grade B Good 73 - 76% Midpoint 74.5%

Grade Term Statement

Represents work of good quality with some weaknesses in content, organization, analysis and /or language. Work is at a sufficient level to meet requirements for professional social work practice. Grades in the “B” range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.

Achievement of Assignment Objective(s)

Reflects satisfactory achievement of all assignment objectives/criteria.

Analysis Scope

Work demonstrates some degree of critical analysis, including (where required by the assignment) some critical reflection on positionality (social/political location). There are likely to be omissions or lack of depth in analysis and critical reflection.

Integration of Theory, Knowledge, and Practice

Work represents a good level of integration of assigned sources, however, comprehensiveness, depth and complexity may be lacking in some areas. The critical analysis may have some weaknesses in terms of integrating relevant and appropriate references, and/or making clear linkages between theory models and professional practice and/or social policy. Matters of context and ideology are addressed to some extent. Where critical reflection on positionality (social/political location) is required by the assignment, there are major deficiencies; connections between the personal and political are tenuous at best. Arguments, assertions or contentions are minimally supported or some may not be at all supported.

Organization, Language, and/or Writing

The work represents a satisfactory level of academic writing. Specific criteria for this grade level:

- Some weaknesses in organization, structure and coherence.
- Ideas, concepts, and principles are not all presented clearly or in a consistent fashion.
- Lack of clarity in meaning or description.
- Inappropriate use of quotations, overuse of quotations, or little contextualization of quotations within the student’s own thinking.
- Errors in grammar, spelling and referencing (in-text citations and reference list).
- Assignment may fall outside the specified word/page limit or, if a presentation, run over or under the allotted time frame.

Grade B- **Acceptable 70 -72% **Midpoint 71%****

Grade Term Statement

Acceptable but lacking in some key aspects of content, organization, analysis and/or language. Work meets minimal requirements for professional social work practice. Grades in the “B” range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.

Achievement of Assignment Objective(s)

One or more assignment objectives/criteria were only partially achieved, or not met at all.

Analysis Scope

Work demonstrates minimal critical analysis, including (where required by the assignment) minimal critical reflection on positionality (social/political location).

Integration of Theory, Knowledge, and Practice

Work represents an acceptable level of integration of sources, however, gaps exist and comprehensiveness, depth and complexity may be lacking. The critical analysis has serious weaknesses in terms of integrating relevant and appropriate references, and/or making linkages between theory models and professional practice and/or social policy. Where critical reflection on positionality (social/political location) is required by the assignment, this is largely absent or has major deficiencies; connections between the personal and political are tenuous at best. Matters of context and ideology are minimally addressed. Arguments, assertions or contentions are not always supported or are inadequately supported.

Organization, Language, and/or Writing

The work represents a minimally acceptable level of academic writing. Specific criteria for this grade level:

- Weaknesses in organization, structure and/or coherence.
- Ideas, concepts, and principles lack clarity or are presented inconsistently.
- Inaccurate language use and/or lack of clarity in meaning or description.
- Inappropriate use of quotations, overuse of quotations, or absence of contextualization of quotations within the student’s own thinking.
- Several errors in grammar, spelling and referencing (in-text citations and reference list).
- Assignment may fall outside the specified word/page limit or, if a presentation, run significantly over or under the allotted time frame.

Grade C+ Marginally Acceptable 65 - 69% Midpoint 67%

Grade Term Statement

Represents marginally acceptable work with major weaknesses and/or lacking in some aspects of content, organization, analysis, or writing. Work must improve in order to meet professional practice expectations.

Achievement of Assignment Objective(s)

One or more assignment objectives were only minimally achieved, partially achieved, or not met at all.

Analysis Scope

Work demonstrates a minimally adequate level of critical analysis, including (where required by the assignment) minimal critical reflection on positionality (social/political location). There are significant omissions or lack of depth in analysis and reflection.

Integration of Theory, Knowledge, and Practice

Work represents a marginally acceptable level of integration of sources, however, significant gaps exist in terms of content and/or comprehensiveness. Lacks depth and complexity. The critical analysis has serious weaknesses in terms of integrating relevant and appropriate sources, and/or in making linkages between theory models and professional practice and/or social policy. Where critical reflection on positionality (social/political location) is required by the assignment, this is largely absent or has major deficiencies; connections between the personal and political are tenuous and few. Matters of context and ideology are minimally addressed or not addressed at all. Arguments, assertions or contentions are not supported or are very inadequately supported.

Organization, Language, and/or Writing

The work represents a marginally acceptable level of academic writing. Specific criteria for this grade level:

- Serious weaknesses in organization, structure and coherence.
- Ideas, concepts, and principles lack clarity.
- Inaccurate language use and/or lack of clarity in meaning or description.
- Inappropriate use of quotations, overuse of quotations, or quotations not contextualized within the student's own thinking.
- Numerous errors in grammar, spelling and referencing (in-text citations and reference list).
- Assignment may fall outside the specified word/page limit or, if a presentation, run significantly over or under the allotted time frame.

Grade C Pass 60 - 64% Midpoint 62%

Grade Term Statement

Although a passing grade, the work does not meet overall academic requirements of the School of Social Work and does not meet standards for professional practice.

Achievement of Assignment Objective(s)

The assignment objectives were only minimally achieved, partially achieved, or not met at all.

Analysis Scope

A critical analysis is lacking in the work.

Integration of Theory, Knowledge, and Practice

Work has major deficiencies in terms of integration of sources, content and/or comprehensiveness. Depth and complexity are lacking. The critical analysis is largely absent, or has serious weaknesses in terms of integrating relevant and appropriate sources, and/or in making linkages between theory models and professional practice and/or social policy. Where critical reflection on positionality (social/political location) is required by the assignment, this is largely absent or has major deficiencies. Arguments, assertions or contentions are not supported at all or are very inadequately supported.

Organization, Language, and/or Writing

The work does not meet the requirements of academic writing. Specific criteria for this grade level:

- Serious weaknesses in organization, structure and coherence.
- Major deficiencies in use of ideas, concepts, and principles.
- Inaccurate language use and/or lack of clarity in meaning or description.
- Inappropriate use of quotations, overuse of quotations, or quotations not contextualized within the student's own thinking.
- Numerous errors in grammar, spelling and referencing (in-text citations and reference list).
- Assignment may fall outside the specified word/page limit or, if a presentation, run significantly over or under the allotted time frame.

Grade D **Barely Adequate 50 - 59%Midpoint 55%**

Grade Term Statement

Although a passing grade, work does not meet the academic requirements of the School of Social Work and does not meet standards for professional practice.

Achievement of Assignment Objective(s)

Most assignment objective(s) were only barely achieved, or some were not met at all. There are serious flaws in content, organization, analysis, and language.

Analysis Scope

A critical analysis is missing from the work.

Integration of Theory, Knowledge, and Practice

Work is inadequate in terms of integration of sources, content and/or comprehensiveness. Depth and complexity are missing. The critical analysis is largely absent, or has several serious weaknesses in terms of integrating relevant and appropriate sources, and/or in making linkages between theory models and professional practice and/or social policy. Where critical reflection on positionality (social/political location) is required by the assignment, this is absent or has major deficiencies. Arguments, assertions or contentions lack clarity, are not supported at all or are very inadequately supported.

Organization, Language, and/or Writing

The work does not meet the requirements of academic or professional writing. Specific criteria for this grade level:

- Serious weaknesses in organization, structure and coherence.
- Major deficiencies in use of ideas, concepts, and principles.
- Inappropriate use of quotations, overuse of quotations, or quotations not contextualized within the student's own thinking.
- Numerous errors in grammar, spelling and referencing (in-text citations and reference list).
- Assignment may fall outside the specified word/page limit or, if a presentation, run significantly over or under the allotted time frame.

Failing Grades (F and N)

(E Fail 0 – 49% Note: The E grade is not applied in School of Social Work. Relates to courses with invigilated Final Exams, which are not part of SSW assessment.)

F Fail 0 - 49%

Grade Term Statement

F: Represents failing work that is inadequate for successful completion of the course. An “F” grade is assigned when a student has met the course attendance requirements, and submitted all required assignments, but has not achieved the baseline indicators for meeting the learning objectives/outcomes for the course.

Grade N Incomplete (0 – 49%)

Grade Term Statement

It is a policy of the School of Social Work that all required course assignments be submitted and assessed in order for a student to meet the learning objectives of any course in the BSW Program, and achieve a minimum 80% attendance rate.

An N grade (Incomplete - Fail) is posted in when either or both of these circumstances occur:

- A student has failed to submit a required course assignment, OR submits a required assignment beyond the final due date or beyond a negotiated extension for acceptance of assignment.
- Student participation in an online course or attendance in an on campus course falls below the 80% requirement, as outlined in the School Grading Policy ([hyperlink](#)).