

PACE+ GRADING

How Grading Works in Direct Assessment CBE

In the PACE+ CBE program, grading is different from traditional classes. Instead of earning points for assignments and tests, you show that you've truly learned the material by demonstrating **mastery** of specific skills or knowledge areas—called **competencies**.

What Does “Mastery” Mean?

Mastery means you've shown that you fully understand a topic and can apply what you've learned. You don't just move on after turning something in—you keep working on it until you get it right.

Feedback and Revisions

Think of your instructor more like a **coach** than a grader. Here's how it works:

1. **You submit your work** (like a project, paper, or assessment).
2. **Your instructor gives you feedback**—what you did well and what needs improvement.
3. **You revise and resubmit** your work based on that feedback.
4. This process continues until you've demonstrated mastery.

You're not penalized for needing more than one try. The goal is to help you learn and succeed—not just to give you a grade.

How You're Graded

Once you've shown mastery, you'll receive one of the following grades:

- **M+ (Mastery with Distinction)** – You went above and beyond (equivalent to an A).
- **M (Mastery)** – You met all the expectations (equivalent to a B).
- **NY (Not Yet)** – You have not yet demonstrated mastery of all the behavioral indicators. You will continue to work with faculty on these skills.
- **PW (Progress Withdrawal)** – You tried but didn't master the competency after three attempts.
- **W or EW** – You withdrew or were excused from the course.

Keep in mind, Financial Aid is based on your activity and progress in the program. Stay engaged, and complete your required number of units each term!

Why This Matters

This model gives you the chance to really learn and grow. But it also means you need to stay engaged, take feedback seriously, and keep working until you've mastered each competency.

If you ever feel stuck, your instructors and support team are here to help—just like a coach would be.