

CANVAS: How to set up a Course Grading Scheme

In Canvas > Settings, the Course Grading Scheme is used to convert each student's total earned score from a percentage to a letter grade.

At Iowa State University, each Canvas account arrives with a default Canvas grading scheme, which may - but often doesn't! - match the grading policy of the course as stated in the course syllabus. If the instructor does not create and activate a new correct grading scheme, then grades calculated by Canvas will not be correct.

Letter	Commonly written:	Resulting expectation	ISU Canvas Default
	%	%	%
A	93 - 100	92.5 - 100	93.0 - 100.0
A-	90 - 92	89.5 - 92.49..	90.0 - 92.99..
B+	87 - 89	86.5 - 89.49..	87.0 - 89.99..
B	83 - 86	82.5 - 86.49..	83.0 - 86.99..
B-	80 - 82	79.5 - 82.49..	80.0 - 82.99..
C+	77 - 79	76.5 - 79.49..	77.0 - 79.99..
C	73 - 76	72.5 - 76.49..	73.0 - 76.99..
C-	70 - 72	69.5 - 72.49..	70.0 - 72.99..
D+	66 - 69	66.5 - 69.49..	67.0 - 69.99..
D	63 - 66	62.5 - 66.49..	63.0 - 66.99..
D-	60 - 62	59.5 - 62.49..	60.0 - 62.99..
F	0 - 59	0 - 59.49..	0 - 59.99..

PROBLEM: Instructors commonly write their syllabus grade policy with a 1% gap between each letter grade interval. The instructor and students intuitively understand that this means grades that fall within the gaps will be rounded either up or down – *but this is not how computers work!*

Students may receive a lower course grade than the syllabus stated they would earn.

The Canvas grading scheme has *no gaps* and does *no rounding*. Each grading interval goes up to, but does not include, the next numeric breakpoint.

Thus a grade of **89.999% will be a B+** and a grade of **59.97% will be an F**, according to the ISU Default Grading Scheme that comes with every new Canvas account.

SOLUTION: Instructors need to either choose the default Canvas Grading Scheme as their course grading basis in their syllabus OR create a new grading scheme in Canvas that reflects their posted syllabus.

1: Find the Grading Scheme

- Click Settings > Course Details tab
- Scroll half way down – ensure there is a check in the 'Enable course grading scheme' box
- Click 'view grading scheme' to see the % breakpoints your course is currently using



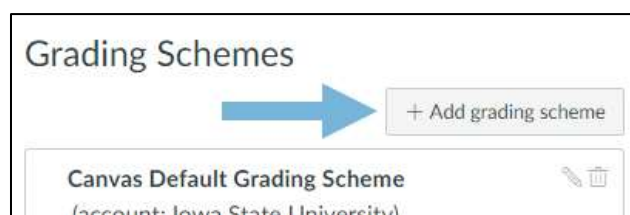
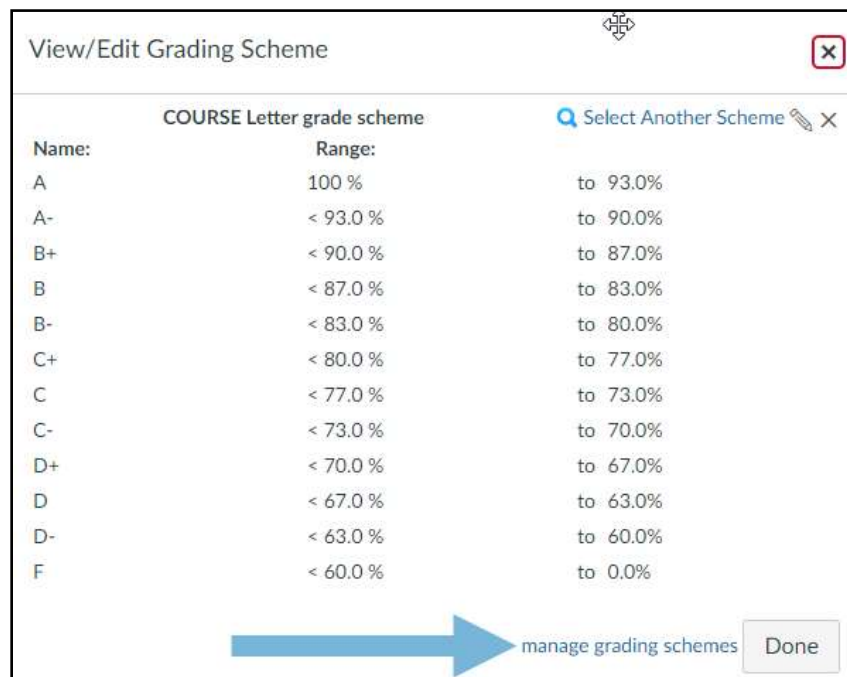
2: Create your own Course Grading Scheme

Part 1 – Make & Save a new grading scheme

- Click 'view grading scheme'
- Click 'manage grading schemes'
- Click '+Add grading scheme'
- Name new grading scheme and adjust the breakpoints (no gaps: continuous ranges)
- Click the red 'Save' button in lower right corner

Creating and saving a new scheme does NOT automatically make the scheme go into use.

You must go back to the settings and explicitly specify that the new scheme is to be used!



Playground Grading

No Gaps

Name	Range				
A	100%	to	90	%	X
A-	< 90%	to	80	%	X
B+	< 80%	to	70	%	X
B	< 70%	to	60	%	X
B-	< 60%	to	50	%	X
C+	< 50%	to	40	%	X
C	< 40%	to	30	%	X
C-	< 30%	to	20	%	X
D+	< 20%	to	15	%	X
D	< 15%	to	10	%	X
D-	< 10%	to	5	%	X
F	< 5%	to	0	%	X

Cancel Save

Part 2 – Make Canvas use your new grading scheme

- Click Settings > View Grading Scheme > Select Another Scheme

View/Edit Grading Scheme

COURSE Letter grade scheme [Select Another Scheme](#)

Name: Range:

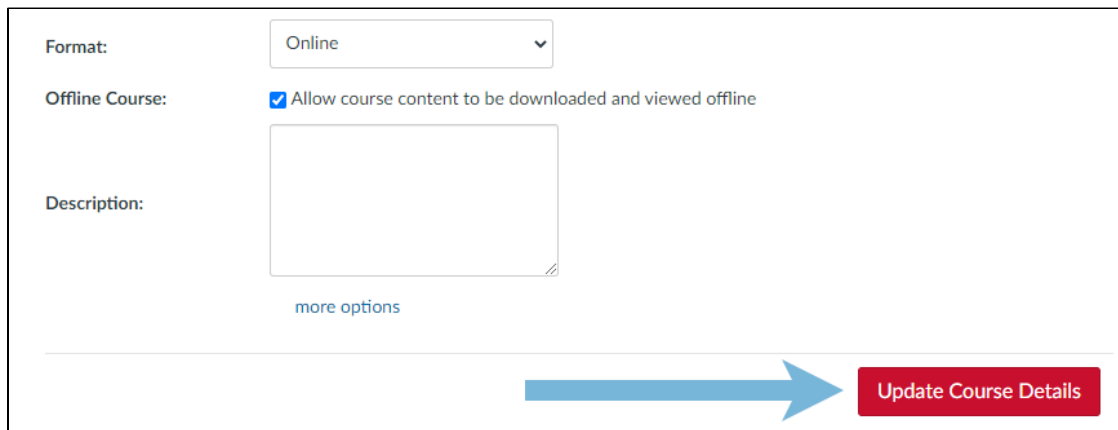
- A popup window appears > select the new scheme in the left column
- The selected scheme appears on the right > scroll down on right and click “Use this Grading Standard”.

View/Edit Grading Scheme

Canvas Default Grading Scheme	Playground Grading	Jordan Gongora, Jordan's Playground
IT Administrators, Iowa State University	A	100% to 90%
COURSE Letter grade scheme	A-	< 90% to 80%
Jordan's Playground	B+	< 80% to 70%
Playground Grading	B	< 70% to 60%
Satisfactory/Fail Default Grading Scheme	B-	< 60% to 50%
IT Administrators, Iowa State University	C+	< 50% to 40%
	C	< 40% to 30%
	D+	< 20% to 15%
	D	< 15% to 10%
	D-	< 10% to 5%
	F	< 5% to 0%

Use This Grading Standard

- On the Settings screen, scroll down and click “Update Course Details”



The screenshot shows a settings form with the following elements:

- Format:** A dropdown menu currently set to "Online".
- Offline Course:** A checkbox labeled "Allow course content to be downloaded and viewed offline" which is checked.
- Description:** A large text area for entering the course description.
- more options**: A link below the description text area.
- Update Course Details**: A red button at the bottom right of the form.

A large blue arrow points from the left towards the "Update Course Details" button.

Click the “view grading scheme” link again and verify that the correct scheme is in place