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## CIT Graduate Student Policies

### Grading Policy

The general grading policy used by CIT is described on the university grading policy page as follows:

A University Policy is a rule that has been officially sanctioned by the president of Carnegie Mellon University, and that generally has university-wide applicability. A policy may include governing principles, it may either mandate or constrain action, it may ensure compliance with laws, or it may mitigate the university's risk. It must be approved by the President's Council, a senior-level decision-making body of Carnegie Mellon, and ultimately by the president, before it becomes official policy.

Many departmental or divisional procedures and guidelines, although useful and important, do not meet the criteria above, and therefore they are not considered university policies. Some department/division practices are linked to this site (e.g., bookstore practices) as a convenience to the Carnegie Mellon community. Some other information, such as the NSF Grant Policy Manual, is not specific to Carnegie Mellon but is included for convenient access.

The policies and guidelines presented here are generally broken into two sections. The section at the beginning of each (the "editor's notes") identifies a contact person or department who can help with specific questions about that policy. It may also contain other pertinent information or links to related documents. This section is not part of the official policy, but is merely supplemental information. It is followed by the actual text of the university policy.

The following are CIT-specific policies for graduate grading.

#### ***Project Work***

Project work may be given an S (Satisfactory) grade on a semester-by-semester basis, but a letter grade (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, or R) must be given in the final semester for a multi-semester project. The units with an S grade are counted toward degree requirements but are not included in computing the average grade.

Course work or graduate project units with a grade of C- or lower are not acceptable toward graduate degree requirements.

#### ***MS Degree***

Most, but not all, CIT MS programs require 96 units. For those that require 96 units, the average grade of 96 units applied to the degree shall be at least B, and the student may choose any 96 units of the first 120 units attempted to compute the grade average. Individual departments and programs may have specific requirements regarding grades in certain courses. For MS programs that require more than 96 units, such as the programs of the Information Networking Institute, the program-specific grading policies and degree requirements apply and should be consulted.

*(policy updated 5/21/2009)*