

Doctoral Dissertation and Master's Thesis Grading #380.031

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
February 3, 2026	February 3, 2026	University Graduate School

POLICY STATEMENT

Dissertation courses (7979, 7980-7989) and thesis courses (6970-6972, 6975) can only be awarded grades of IP, P (Passing), F (Failing), or U (Unsatisfactory). The IP grade indicates satisfactory progress for the semester towards completion of the dissertation or thesis. The P grade is assigned after the successful defense of the dissertation or thesis. Once completed, all previous IP grades will be updated to a final grade of P by the Office of the Registrar.

The U grade is assigned when a student's progress does not meet the faculty or committee expectations for the semester. The U grade will not affect the student's GPA nor interfere with the student's ability to continue working toward completion of their dissertation or thesis. Students who receive a U grade will be allowed to register in dissertation or thesis credits in the following semester. U grades will not be changed to P grades and will remain on the student's transcript as a U. This applies even once the student successfully defends, only IP grades will be changed to P.

The F grade is assigned when there is a failure to progress during the semester and will negatively affect the student's GPA. The continuation of the student in the program needs to be assessed by a minimum of two faculty including the Graduate Program Director in accordance with the program's requirements/handbook (if applicable).

SCOPE

University Community (faculty, graduate students, and University Graduate School administration).

REASON FOR POLICY

This policy sets forth the grading requirements for dissertation courses (7979, 7980-7989) and thesis courses (6970-6972, 6975) in doctoral and thesis master's programs. This policy ensures consistency in grading practices as students progress toward completion of their final dissertation or thesis.

TERM	DEFINITIONS
Dissertation Courses (7979, 7980-7989)	Dissertation Courses intended enrollment for dissertation credits for the completion of a formal dissertation and enrollment for doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy.
Thesis courses (6970-6972, 6975)	Thesis courses intended enrollment for thesis credits for the completion of a formal thesis masters.
Completed thesis/dissertation	Formal manuscript for master's thesis or doctoral dissertation successfully defended, as described in university policies, with an approved final ETD (final electronic thesis/dissertation). The thesis/dissertation must conform to the standards of presentation as described in the University Graduate School Formatting and Regulations Manual for Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) . The P Grade will be awarded in the final semester by the faculty and then all prior IP Grades will be converted to P grades by the Office of the Registrar.
Final ETD	Final Electronic Thesis/Dissertation manuscript for master's thesis or doctoral dissertation.
IP	In Progress Grade indicating satisfactory progress for the semester.
P	Passing Grade indicating successful completion of dissertation or thesis.
U	Unsatisfactory Grade indicating unsatisfactory progress during the semester with the understanding the student can continue enrollment in the next semester. This grade does not impact the student's GPA.
F	Failing Grade indicating a failure in progress during the semester. This grade will impact the student's GPA. The continuation of the student in the program needs to be assessed by the faculty and Graduate Program Director.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The graduate student completes all requirements towards the completion of doctoral dissertation or master's thesis in accordance with [published university policies and procedures](#), the University Catalog, and program requirements.
2. The faculty member who taught the dissertation/thesis course submits the final grade.

3. The academic department and college certify students for graduation via current University processes.
4. The University Graduate School provides the final ETD list to the Office of the Registrar.
5. The Office of the Registrar updates IP grades to P grades.

RELATED RESOURCES

- Doctoral Candidacy and Candidacy Examination Policy # 380.001
<https://policies.fiu.edu/files/114.pdf>
- Master's Thesis and Committee Policy # 380.049
<https://policies.fiu.edu/files/784.pdf>
- Time Limits for Graduate Degree Completion Policy # 380.080
<https://policies.fiu.edu/files/111.pdf>
- Continuous Enrollment Requirement for Dissertation and Thesis Students Policy # 380.008
<https://policies.fiu.edu/files/783.pdf>
- Formatting and Regulations Manual for Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD)
[Thesis & Dissertation - University Graduate School](#)
- Electronic Thesis and Dissertation
<https://gradschool.fiu.edu/thesis-dissertation/>
- University Catalog - [Florida International University Catalog](#)

CONTACTS

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HISTORY

Initial Effective Date: February 3, 2026

Review Dates (*review performed, no updates*): N/A

Revision Dates (*updates made to document*): February 3, 2026