Effective for students entering the M.B.A. program May 1994, or later, the following five tiered grading system is used:

**Distinction (DS)**
- An honors grade recognizing work of exceptional quality as evidenced by total mastery of all concepts and techniques. The student stands clearly above the class and is able to integrate and apply concepts and techniques and consistently demonstrate initiative and creativity response to assigned work.

**High Performance (HP)**
- Work of a very good quality as evidenced by a solid mastery of all course concepts and techniques. The student shows consistent initiative in responding to assigned work and meets or exceeds all of the instructor’s performance expectations.

**Performance Standard (PS)**
- Work of good quality as evidenced by a solid mastery of most course concepts and techniques. The student shows initiative in responding to assigned work and meets all of the performance expectations.

**Low Performance (LP)**
- Work of below standard or marginally acceptable quality. The student’s mastery of the subject material is uneven and there may be some difficulty in understanding and appropriately applying concepts and techniques. However, overall performance meets the instructors minimum performance expectations.

**No Credit (NC)**
- M.B.A. students do not receive a numeric or letter grade, quality point average, or class ranking. There is no established basis for translating descriptive grade terms to conventional letter grades or grade point averages, and an attempt to make such a translation from the accompanying transcript would be inappropriate and may be misleading. However, we recognize that in certain cases, outside parties may need to do so for comparison purposes. Comparable graduate programs employing the letter grade system typically consider a grade of B to be passing work. Our (PS) grade represents the expected performance standard and would therefore clearly indicate that a student is achieving at this level. Descriptive definitions of the grades are outlined below.
No Credit (NC)
Work of unacceptable quality. The student demonstrates little understanding and great difficulty in applying concepts and techniques. The student fails to meet the instructor's minimum performance expectations.

It is recommended that the grade of "Distinction" represent only exceptional work and that the grade of "High Performance" represent work of commendable nature. Therefore, it is suggested that a grade of "Distinction" be limited to 15% of enrollment in Core courses, 18-20% in elective courses, and that grades of "High Performance" and "Distinction" in combination not exceed 50% of total enrollment in Core courses, 50-60% in elective courses. Additionally, a suggested range of 5% to 10% would be an appropriate average distribution for the grade "Low Performance" in Core courses. In elective courses, the appropriate average distribution for the LP grade would be no more than 5%, recognizing that many times the appropriate distribution for a course would be 0%.