Plus-Minus Survey

The University of Alabama

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December 2004
Introduction

The genesis of this project took place in spring 2004 when the SGA conducted an informal survey of students pertaining to the plus-minus grading system. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee reviewed the informal survey and decided that a more extensive survey, including a breakdown of preferences by college, would be desirable. Hank Lazer, Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Programs and Services, and Jon Acker, Coordinator for Assessment, devised the one item survey and placed it online.

Christina Carden, Vice President of Academic Affairs for the SGA, oversaw publicizing the survey. Advertisements for the survey were placed in *The Crimson White* and announcements were made at various student organization meetings.

A total of 3,959 usable responses were collected. The results, given below, show the overall structured response figures, and those broken down by college and class level. Open-ended responses are given as well.
Results

What are your thoughts on the plus/minus grading system at UA?  N = 3,959

Overall Percent

[20.4] The Plus/Minus grading system should be retained in its present structure.

[67.3] Plus/Minus grading should be abolished, and UA should return to A, B, C, D, F grading.

[ 5.5] I am unsure or have no opinion.

[ 6.9] Plus/Minus grading should be modified. Please explain: (see Additional comments)

**Breakdown by College**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB</td>
<td>19.6</td>
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<td>CM</td>
<td>19.1</td>
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<td>ED</td>
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<tr>
<td>NU</td>
<td>17.3</td>
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<td>SW</td>
<td>17.1</td>
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**Breakdown by Class Level**

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO</td>
<td>20.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>JR</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SR</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG</td>
<td>21.9</td>
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Note: PG = post-graduate (students who have received a bachelor’s degree but remain in undergraduate studies.)
Additional comments:  N = 285

1. You should reward good work by giving pluses, but not punish students by giving minuses (especially A minuses).
2. You should not make less than 4. if you have any A or less than a 3. if you any B and so on.
3. You should keep the plus but do away with the minuses. Having the plus and minus practically nullify each other over the course of four years.
4. You can have a plus or minus sign on your transcript but it will not affect your GPA.
5. Why are we not on a 100 point scale; so that a 95 is a 95 and the difference between an 89 and a 90 is only a point and no more.
6. Who cares, by the time the University did something I would of already graduated. I transferred here and if I knew it was based on the +/- system I would of never had come here.
7. We should reward the plus and not let the minus hurt our GPA. In other words, the plus should be extra points but the minus should not count against us. This rewards students who put forth more effort and doesn't punish students for an A.
8. We should retain the pluses, but eliminate the minuses. I don't understand how it is fair to not give someone 4 points on their GPA if they make a 90.
9. We should only use a Plus system (i.e., use A+ and A, B+ and B, etc.). Still count the A+ as 4.33 and the B+ as 3.33, etc. but throw out the minuses because I don't think anyone likes them...
10. We should have plus grades if the average is above a regular grade, but no minus grades.
11. We could have a plus scale to reward good students but not the minus part.
12. Use the plus option only.
13. Use a single minus system. Example brackets: [grade < 58, F, 0] [58 <= grade < 62, D-, 0.5] [62 <= grade < 68, D, 1.0] [68 <= grade < 72, C-, 1.5] [72 <= grade < 78, C, 2.0] ... [98 <= grade A+, 4.5]
14. Unless all grades for students enrolled at this time are changed to the A, B, C, D, F grading then the plus/minus system should stay as is and change for the next group of incoming freshman.
15. This field is not large enough (I do have a very good solution, though, I feel) please contact me (kille002@bama.ua.edu) for my ideas. My main gripe with the plus/minus system is this: To the rest of the world a grade of "A" equals a 90% grade or better. Further, to them, a "4.0" equals an "A" and thus ALSO equals 90% grade or better. --However-- At the U of A, a GPA of "4.0" requires something like a 93% or 94% (I honestly don't recall which). Not only that—and here's the real problem—a grade of 90% is represented by a GPA well BELOW a "4.0." Sadly, a "90 A" looks surprisingly like a "3.7." As a result of this situation, University students are, in effect, penalized in the eyes of the 'real world' scale. For instance, let's consider the following scenario: a potential employer (in an interview) sees a "3.7" GPA on a your resume and interprets it as BELOW an "A" when, in fact, it could be as high as a 92% or better (which most of the world would indeed call an "A" but we here at the University deem an "A-" [which is decidedly different from a 4.0-deserving "A"].) As a result, the employer (who's looking for a particularly smart young grad) passes over you and hires another candidate, from another—less 'prestigious'—school, that actually HAS his "4.0" (which could, in fact, represent a mere 90% or—worse yet—an 89.6%). This situation presents the gravest problem with the plus/minus system: when pitted against graduates from other schools, Bama Alumni stand to be misrepresented—in fact, to be UNDER-represented. And it's only salt in the wound that this most harmful of side-effects doesn't set in until AFTER the poor student has graduated—far too late to do anything about it. Now, that being said, I can honestly sympathize with the Faculty Senate and their longstanding support of the (+/-) system and the aforementioned 'prestige' it lends to this fine University. However, under the current system, that presumed
heightened stature comes, if at all, only at the expense of any UA graduate's job-acquiring potential. (Wait, isn't that the reason we're all here? All these pre-civil war bricks; all the grey hairs on instructors' heads; all the wadded pages in the waste basket; isn't all that here, in the first place, to maximize the ability of a grad to obtain a job in the 'real world'? ) Sadly, though, it seems, the plus/minus system detracts from the very foundation upon which this University is built—yeah, the foundation. Remember? It's that thing all those plusses and minuses were supposed to lend more 'prestige' to in the first place. Anyway, as I was saying (It was before I started griping again—please accept my humble apologies), I really can see why this wretched system was instated in the first place. Because, it does in fact, provide a means by which harder working students are rewarded for their exceptionally hard work… And it also wah wa wah wa waaaaaah (oh, sorry— again—a bit of a Charlie Brown moment there). But, in all seriousness, it really does do that. Love it or hate it; it makes you want to work harder for those good grades. And, as much as it pains me to admit it (sorry, I'm a senior—some of that non-student rhetoric is creeping into my head), that IS a good thing. Really, my only complaint with the whole prospect is that it does such harm in the process of doing its good. Moreover, that harm, unfortunate as it may be, outweighs the good. To remedy this imbalance, I propose a hybrid scenario which retains the good of the current system while eliminating the evil (uh, I mean: bad) that, as of now, comes merrily along with it. My idea is simply this: Let’s retain the positive reinforcement of the system by rewarding those who work extra hard. We can give those who score a 98 or 99 a 4.2 (or something like that). But, in the same breath, let’s not punish those who also work hard to reach that 90% mark by shortchanging them of their 4.0. And, naturally, it goes without saying that the same is true for a 3.0 B and on down. A situation like this will bring the grading scale back into balance and prove both acceptable and beneficial to the University as a whole, faculty, and students, alike. Honestly, the truth is (and there’s no way we’d change it ANY time soon) that, to THE WORLD, the following equation is true: (4.0 GPA = A >= 90%). But, by sending a 90% achieving Alabama graduate out into the world with a 3.7 GPA, or anything short of the 4.0 he has worked hard for, we are crippling him. And, I don’t think that’s something we want to do to our students (or ourselves). Rather, let us lift up and empower our students to achieve the endlessness we strive, every day, to help them attain. Ok. I’m sorry, that was a good bit longer than I intended it to be….but, I got it all out. I hope this helps, please don’t hesitate to get back with me if you have any questions or need anything further. Again, sorry this was so long.

16 They should put numeric grades, i.e., instead of C+ they should be 77, 78, 79.
17 They only adjusted my grades after they began this mess. Now I have several A+s that only count as 4.0. They should make changes to the grading system retroactive for enrolled students!!!
18 There should only the plus and not the minus. It seems like we should be rewarded for that high A or B but not punished for the low one because the 90-92 grade is still an A so it should get the 4.0.
19 There should only be pluses no minuses.
20 There should only be pluses because of the students ability to do better work than their peers. The minuses hurt the GPA too much!!
21 There should only be plus or minus so that the range between plus or minus is a lot wider than what it is now. For example an A+ would be from 100-95 and an A- would be from 94 to 90.
22 There should be plus but no minus, 80 is a B!
23 There should be only pluses (+) and no minuses.
24 There should be less penalty for a minus, such as a 3.85 for a a- instead of the present score for that grade.
25 There should be an A+, A, B, C, D, F.
There should be an A+ in order to reward high achievement, however, the A- should be abolished and changed to a simple A. As for the rest (B-D), the +/- system should stay in place as it is at the present.

There should be a wider gap between plus and minus. For example, an A+ should be a 98 and above average. An A- should be a 90-92.

There should be a plus system to reward the students who work hard but there should not be a minus because it hurts your grade. For example, you struggle to make a 92 and you receive less points but you still worked hard to get an A. So it's not fair.

There should be a plus system only. Students GPA's should not be penalized for doing well.

There should be a plus system and not a minus system. Pluses should help your GPA but a minus should not hurt your GPA.

There should be a plus system only. Isn't the reason we have the system is to reward for doing well? Not hurt our gpa's with - !

There is no reason for a student with an A- to receive a 3.67 instead of a 4.0

The system should reward a high grade (for example 98 or greater) but the minus system really messes things up. Either it should be totally abolished or the minus portion should be reduced to less of a gpa penalty.

The system should have plus and minus but if you get an A- it should still be a 4.00. The letter grade should be reflected by a range of 3.00-3.99 for B and 2.00-2.99 for C and so on.

The system could be modified to give students an advantage. This could be done by allowing a wider range for the plus than the minus or even doing away with the minus altogether.

The plus/minus system should still include the plus, but do away with the minus

The system is unfair to those students who may obtain a greater than 4.0 average in a semester because the points do not carry over.

The system is unfair to some people who don't have low grades in a grade range. You should be penalized for having a 90 instead of a 95. I think the pluses should stay but the minuses need to go.

The Plus/Minus system gives a fair opportunity to all and should be retained. However, ALL instructors should be REQUIRED to follow the system if it stays in effect.

The system should use pluses but no minuses.(ex. 90-97: 4.0/ 98-100: 4.33)

The Plus and Minus system should be modified so that an A- should not be less than a 4.0.

When someone receives an A- they should not be punished.

The only thing about it is if you have a B- grade then your GPA is 2.7 which looks like a C when in all actuality you have a B. Maybe modify in some way that way your GPA is another letter when it should be something higher.

The only plus that should be given is for an A+, if the student makes 97 or above in a class.

The only grade that should have a plus is A.

The number system should be used.

The minus shouldn't be as harsh as it is if it stays like it is now then I believe the plus should move up some.

The minus should not reduce your grade. Example a B- should not count less than a 3.0

The minus part should be done away with, but students receiving grades on the upper level of the said grade should be awarded pluses. ( for example 90- 96 A, and 97-100 A+).

The minus part of the scale is harsh, because you get an "A" with a 90, but only receive 3.66 quality points.

The minus only hurts us. Make it just a plus system without the minus.
The grading system should be modified such that it does not hurt the students grade (i.e. making an A-).

The grading scale should be modified to cater to the specific class. Classes are not equally challenging and the grading should reflect it. A student shouldn't be punished for making an A-

The GPA to make the dean's list should be at least a 3.0, and 4.0 and above for the President's List.

The difference should be much less; not a third of a point but maybe 3.9 for an A- and 4.1 for an A+.

The +/- should only come into effect at a B+. As it stands, it hurts A students. Receiving an A in a class should be a 4.00, not a 3.67. A-'s hurt good students.

The "minus" should count as a level point. For example, an A- should count as 4.0, B- as 3.0, and so on.

The "Minus" in the Plus/Minus grading is most harmful to people scoring anything below what's typically considered a "B". The system is fine for the "A" grade, but should probably be modified for students scoring lower than that.

Teachers should not be allowed to give A+ for over a hundred averages. There should be a set of guidelines that teacher's must follow and minus should be less of a drop. A- ruin GPA's when they are still A's.

Teachers should be required to award A+'s to students whose grades fall within that range. Too many teachers "don't believe" in A+'s and therefore refuse to award them. This is a policy that hurts top students.

Teachers never give out A+'s, and rarely scale, plus/minus should be abolished.

Teachers are more likely to give a minus than a plus and often times more likely to give a minus than just the base grade. (B- as opposed to a B)

Students should be awarded for a "plus," but not penalized for a "minus," i.e., there is no reason that a student with a 92 in an Honors class should get a 3.67 on their GPA instead of a 4.0.

Students' GPAs should not be impaired in the event of making an A minus, or B minus, or C minus. The points given for an A minus should be no lower than a 4.0 because that student made an A and deserves the credit for an A.

Still have plus/minus system, but count A- to A+ as a 4.0, B- to B+ as 3.0.

Spread the intervals more, two points shouldn't make the difference of a 3.67 or a 4.33 from a 4.0, .33 is a lot on your GPA to risk, and it seems that there are more -'s given than +'s.

Some teachers won't give A pluses. If they can give minuses, they should have to give pluses too.

Some instructors start an A at 92 some 93 or 94. there should be a consistent # where each letter grade begins.

Should only do the plus system. Get rid of the minus, it is that way at other colleges

Should only be retained for the plus half; something that will help not hurt your gpa.

Should only apply if the teacher is going to use it for the students benefit.

Should just have plus, eliminate minus.

Should include class average.

Should have pluses benefit you, but minus should remain the normal (i.e.. 3.00 or 4.00).

Should be completely abolished, but needs a modification so students who previously made A- can still pull their grade up to 4.0; not fair to them to simply abolish.

Reward students who do extra well with the +, but get rid of the possibility of -.

Reward for pluses, no deduction or penalty for minuses.

Reward for pluses, no deduction for minuses.

Return to A, B, C, D, F, but reward for +'s on grades.
Retain the plus system and take out the minus system. Retain the "+" for high letter grades (ex. 88 and 89), but just give a regular letter for all the other numerical grades (ex. B=80 to 87).

Require teachers to follow a set standard for what earns a plus or minus. Some assign a B- for an 84, which should really just be a B, for example.

Remove the minus part but keep the plus part as a reward.

Remove the Minus altogether.

Plusses should still help but minuses shouldn't hurt one's grade so much. Plusses should raise GPA, but minuses should not hurt it.

Pluses should be given, but minuses penalize individuals who make an A for instance. There should be A+, A, B+, B, C+, C, and so forth.

Pluses for only exceptional work, but no minuses.

Pluses could be extra credit, while minuses and plain grades are equal.

Plus/minus is hurting students here at U of A. Find a way to reward students with A+, don't hurt those with an A-.

Plus/ No minus grading system.

Plus should be given but there should be no minus. For example, 95-100 A+, 90-95 A.

Plus should be allowed to help GPA but not minus grades that hurt GPA.

Plus is good, but minus should be taken off.

Plus grades should be given to reward exceptional performance, but there should be no minus grades.

Plus can stay... but be worth less and minus should go away completely.

Plus but no minus- at least for As. It is difficult enough to earn an A in some classes and we should not be punished for receiving an A-.

Please contact me so that I may elaborate. Thanks. green134@bama.ua.edu -- Thanks for replying. I appreciate the chance to express my thoughts. Let me first say that I am an opponent of the plus-minus system. My idea may seem somewhat unbalanced, but I believe it would provide the best opportunity for students. When you look at the plus-minus system, students can be helped or hurt if their grade where to change by even one point in some cases. My idea is a neutral-plus system. Normally when a student has a 96, that is an A. If the student moves up by one point, it becomes an A+. If another student has a 94, and moves down by one point, it goes from A to A-.

I understand the principle behind the system, but it shouldn't punish students for a difference of one, two, or three points. The system doesn't take into account various factors that could affect a student's grade by such a small margin. Theoretically, a student could have a 94, but make a 91 on the final exam and have their grade in the class fall from A to A-, yet that student has still excelled in the class and maintained what would usually be an A. Instead, I support a system with neutral grades, and plus grades. In an attempt to encourage students to work just a little harder, the system would reward the extra one, two, or three points a student might earn. On the other end, there would be no minus grade. If a student happened to falter at the end of a semester, for example 95 to 93, they shouldn't have such a significant reduction in GPA. The student has still maintained a high standard of academic excellence. The current system can have a severe effect on a student's GPA because of the swing in point values. With the neutral-plus system, grades 90-96 would be an A, but 97-100+ would be an A+. Of course, all other letter grades would follow the same step scale. My idea would reward students for working just a little harder, but wouldn't punish them for small slips as long as the stayed within the current letter grade range. I hope that helps, and again, thank you. If you have any further questions, or need something cleared up, please contact me.

Perhaps you could explain to those of us who don't know, exactly what the plus/minus system is.
Percentage numbers should be used.  
Only the plus system should remain, e.g. A or A+.  
Only pluses...no minuses...  
Only pluses should be given. Minuses hurt students and undermine their academic endeavors.  
Only pluses should be counted....no minus system.  
Only plus/minus for classes with objective grading (math, science, history, psychology, etc.) Not for discussion classes or classes with only term papers as the basis for grading.  
Only plus.  
Only plus should be given a minus brings your gpa down.  
Only Plus not Minus.  
Only plus no minus.  
Only plus grades should be awarded, and the minus grades should become a regular A, B, C, or D.  
Only give the plus side of the grading system like a reward as it is done at Florida.  
Only awarding plus/abolishing minus.  
Only a plus system.  
Only +'s.  
Only +'s no -'s.  
Numerical grading.  
Numerical  
No penalty for having a minus, but still a reward for having a plus. ex: A- and A=4.0 and an A+ still is a 4.3.  
No minuses only pluses.  
No minus... just plus.  
No minus... just plus.  
No minus, only plus.  
No minus grades...only plus grades.  
No minus at all, or if that doesn't fly, no +’s or -’s period...  
No A+'s, but only B+'s-D+'s and no minus's.  
Minus's drag down GPA's but pluses are extremely good. There shouldn't be such a strong difference. Therefore your GPA won't suffer so badly after only a few minuses in a semester.  
Minuses are way too costly.  
Minus shouldn't be below the weight of a grade. An -A shouldn't be below a 4 weight.  
Minus should go away and the plus part remain.  
Minus grades hurt students who really have put forth a great deal of effort.  
Maybe there should be a + system just to reward those for getting 100 and 99, but not a minus(-) because I believe that it penalizes those who make 80 or 81 by giving us a grade equal to a C at other schools.  
Maybe keep the pluses and lose the minuses.  
Maybe get rid of the minus but people who get in the upper range of the specific letter should get something extra.  
Making say a B- should be lower than a 3.0 a B minus should be a 3.0 a B 3.3 and a B+ 3.5 or something along those lines.  
Making a 90 in college deserves a 4.0. Making a 97 in college deserves a 4.33. Therefore, they should keep the plusses and remove the minuses. Seriously.  
Make it mandatory. Some teachers do not believe in A pluses. And so it can hurt a student's g.p.a. These same teachers will give A minuses and so it is unfair.
Make it just plus so students will push harder to get the extra GPA, but will not be affected by the minus which will set them back.

Make 99, 100 a "+" and no "-".

Less points for a minus grade.

Keep the plusses, lose the minuses.

Keep the Pluses, but abolish the minuses. It should not be mandatory to make a 94 to get a 4.0.

Keep the plus, get rid of the minus.

Keep the plus, but do away with the minus, because if you earn a 90, you don't get the A that you worked so hard for.

Keep the plus reward, but eliminate the minus penalty.

Keep the A, B, C, NC, but take away the plus/minus.

Keep the +, throw out the -.

Keep plus, eliminate minus.

Just keep the plus.

Just having Plus and No Minus---that is how my middle school did the grading scale. If not that, then I would say just the A, B, C, etc..

It's really unfair to be penalized for an A. A- does just that.

It's hard enough to get an a- much less an a or a+. an a is an a and a b is a b.

It sucks that this comes up now that I am graduating but it should definitely be abolished, so I vote for option two. I just wanted to voice my opinion as well. I know that my GPA would be much higher if we did not have the plus/minus system.

It should only be a plus system. The minuses harm you too much.

It should be modified in such a way that a plus for a letter should not equal almost in value for a minus letter.

It should be a plus / regular system. An A is an A. However if you want to reward a student for making a higher grade on that scale then I feel that is acceptable. However to give a student less than a 4.0 for making a 96 rather than a 97 is an injustice!

It seems unfair to lose points when you make an -A and get less than the four pints on the scale.

It seems like the plus/minus system only really helps if you have an A+, since I'm about to graduate. I feel that my grades could have been better with out the system. Especially because of the minuses.

It seems a little unfair for a 94 to be ranked as a 4.0 and a 93 to be ranked as a 3.7.

It needs to be standardized. If some teachers use it, they all should. It's not fair that a B in one class could be a B+ in another class. It can hurt your GPA.

It is ridiculous and discouraging how one can have an A and their grade point average goes down.

It has hurt me more than helped my gpa. Ya'll figure it out.

It affects gpa by less than 1%

If you get an A no matter where it falls, it shouldn't count against you to pull your grade from a 4.0 and the same for all the grade letters. Could design the point system differently.

If the university wants to reward students for scoring at the top of a letter that is fine, but do not punish someone for making an A minus by causing their GPA to be below a four.

If teachers can give minuses they need to give pluses as well - some upper level classes stop at an A. Also, the system should be uniform. e.g. An A+ is always a 97, not a 96 in one class or a 99 in another.
166 If teachers are willing to utilize the bottom part of the scale they should also be using the upper half as well.
167 If not for the plus/minus system, I would have a much better GPA. I received a 2.6 when I had three B-’s and a C+. I would have had closer to a 3.0. So in short FUCK THE DAMN plus/minus system.
168 I would rather have a number grade from 0-100. So I can see how much I need to bring my grade. Numbers are more exact.
169 I was grandfathered into the plus/minus system and this lowered my grades in some classes. For example, I made an A+ in most of my major course work, but I only received an A because of this.
170 I think you should still have a 4.0 even if you make a 90, but I'm all for getting above a 4.0 if you have a 97+.
171 I think you should abolish all plus and minuses, except for an A+. Anyone who can do better than a 100 or whatever in the class deserves that grade.
172 I think we should keep the plus by do away with the minus.
173 I think we should follow the plus system and use A+, A, B+, B, C+, C.
174 I think we should do away with the minus part of the system but still award a plus for a high A, B, or C.
175 I think there should be pluses and no minuses... or, if a grade that is being transferred from another school should be transferred in the form of a number and then be evaluated as Alabama's plus minus system.
176 I think there should be only an A+ and everything else should be regular A, B, C, D, F.
177 I think there should be a grade standard campus-wide. For example, I can make a 95 in one class and its an A+, but if I make a 95 in another class, it may just be an A. I think it needs to be standardized.
178 I think the point average should be readjust to whole number and points that go on and on.
179 I think the plus/minus system is absurd. It takes away the meaning of an A. I mean an A is an A and so forth. Putting a minus in front of an A is ridicules!!
180 I think the 'plus' side of it should stay to reward the students who do well. I think the 'minus' part of it seems like a punishment.
181 I think the grading system should change because very few teachers give A+ or B+, they are much more inclined to give a minus or a flat grade. I don't think it should be abolished though…
182 I think the first 2 opinions listed on the survey are too far on either end of the spectrum: some middle of the road system should be reached.
183 I think that the plus system should continue but the minus system should be dropped.
184 I think that the minus grading factor should not result in a lower GPA. The plus grading factor should still result in a higher GPA because it is really tough to make an A+ but extremely easy to make an A-.
185 I think that if a student earned an A, he or she received an A or A+. I totally believe the A - is an insult to people that work hard to make an A. All other grades goes the same.
186 I think that exact averages should be used (91, 86, etc.)
187 I think that an A- should be a 4.0... I think any A should be a 4.0...
188 I think that a plus grade should be a reward, but a minus should not be a punishment.
189 I think it should just be a plus system. It was implemented to encourage the higher-grade students to seek to do the best they could and being rewarded for it. I think just a plus system would allow for this.
190 I think it should just be a plus system, no minuses. Because they always hurt someone's GPA rather than helping it.
I think it should be abolished, and I also think that we should be able to forgive grades. I think it should be a plus system. If you earn a 90, it should be an A, but if you do the work that gets you that 95-96 number then you should get an A+. I hate to think that someone would work so hard and get that 90-92 and be penalized. I think if you have a high A or B, it should be award with a extra boost. I dislike the system though, because if you work hard enough to get a A or B but it is lower you almost get penalized. I think all letters should amount for the same points. For example, you only have to have an 87 to have a B+ but you have to have a 98 to have an A+. Seems a little unfair. I think a plus only system should be used. Minus only hurts. I really love the idea of A+, but the minus in class could really hurt in my harder classes later in my years. I'm so glad that you guys are finally making this an issues. you should not stop until their is some kind of vote or agreement. Thanks.

I personally would have an higher average if the plus/minus system was not used. We are one of the few school in the state of Alabama who use this system, and I believe it hurts out students when applying for graduate programs.

I only want pluses.

I love the pluses, but the minuses suck.

I like the plus/minus grading system. I have read articles on the grading system in other schools, one such article was written about Santa Cruz grading system and I loved the whole idea about it!!!

I like the plus minus scale, but I think an A- should be a 4.0 and it should go up from there.

I like the idea of getting credit for a 100, but I don't believe you should loose points when you have an "A" I am really not sure what should be done.

I like getting extra points for a higher A or B, but I wish they would quit taking away points for the minuses. Reward us for the good, but don't punish for getter a lower version of the same letter.

I just think its unfair for an A- to count less than a 4.0, an A is an A. Right now we are being punished for having a little dash attached to it...

I haven't been on a student here long enough to make that judgment.

I feel that it should be taken away simply because it doesn't portray us in a competitive light to other college students. I think that it's hurting us.

I feel that exact averages should be used to calculate a students GPA.

I don't think we should have the minus system, an A is an A, but when a student tries extra hard, they should be rewarded with the plus system.

I don't think there should be any minus grades, just pluses and regular.

I don't think there should be a minus system, only with pluses. But if this can't be done than I would abolish it all together.

I don't think that you should be punished for getting an A- instead of an A. An A- and an A should both be worth 4 points. I think that maybe an A+ or B+ should count like it does now 3.3 or 4.3.

I don't think that an A- should be less that a 4.0 that makes in a lot tougher to achieve a better GPA - It makes a A- a negative thing.

I don't like the fact that the minus' are held against you, but if you get plusses you are not allowed to have above a 4.0

I don't like the fact that and A- looks like a B because it's below a 4.0, +/- is good, but an A shouldn't be below 4.0 etc.

I do not think that your GPA should be penalized for making a low "A".
I dislike it and wish it to be changed! But what about my first 3 years of school- how will it effect those semesters?

I could understand having extra credit for a grade of 97 and above, but I do not agree with being penalized for making an A (90-93). There should be no bad A. It should be a 4.0 if it is an A.

I believe the students should be rewarded when a plus is made, however, I disagree with the almost punitive effect a minus has on a students GPA.

I believe that those who do well enough to get a plus should get one. The people who work really hard and still make an a minus should receive an A for their hard work. The plus should be kept but the minus abolished.

I believe that this could be a beneficial system, but currently there are some classes that are +/- and some that are not, this makes the system flawed.

I believe that there should not be any minus'. That only hurts students. But keep plus' so that the student is rewarded for doing well.

I believe that plus/minus system is good in that it rewards for higher marks (i.e. a B+), however, I find the minus system a bit discouraging, so maybe it could be modified to reward and not penalize.

I at least want it so that if I make an "A" in a course, I receive a numerical representation of that "A." My A- should not be a 3.67, it should be 4.00 because it is still an "A."

I appreciate the plus/minus system.

I am more often hurt by the system than helped. I think that the system should be broader and reduced in effect. i.e., 95-100 grade = 4.15 90-94 = 4.0 85-89 = 3.15 etc.

I am a firm believer that if a student attends class, completes his or her work and receives either A or a B, the minuses should not be administered.

I agree with rewarding students for making a plus but I do not agree with punishing students for a minus. I think it would be great if you gave plus and then just an A, B, C, D, or F.

I like the plus/minus system but I don't like the fact that a A- is not even a 4.0..it should at least be a 4.

However, it was pretty crappy that I got a 98 in a class several years ago when there was only the minus system... I needed that A+ and only got an A.

Honors classes should hold more weight in the grading system.

Have pluses to reward the hard work, but don't have minuses, at least the A-.

Have Plus but get rid of the Minus.

Have no A-. 90-95 (A), 95-100 (A+)

Grades should be based on a numeric system.

GPA should be tabulated both ways: once with + / - and then again w/out it; this aides those students who wish to pursue a graduate degree outside of U of A at not such of a disadvantage when competing for graduate student slots.

Give the bonus points for the people who go over and above (97+), but don't hurt the people who make the 90s and 91s. Let those just count as regular A's, but give special points for the people who make the + grades.

Give plus's but cut out minuses. It rewards people for almost getting a higher grade, but doesn't hurt people for studying hard but just barely making the grade.

Give only plus, no more minus.

Give A+ for students who attain grade of 98 or above.

Get rid of the minus but keep the plus.

Get rid of the minus - it only hurts a student's gpa but teachers don't recognize the difference b/t an A and an A-. They are just as willing to give either.

Forget about minuses, leave only pluses.
For example: 90-94=A-, 95-100=A+, and so on.

Even though an A+ is above a 4.0, I don't think it is fair to punish people for making an A-.

A good bit of universities don't punish their students for making an A- instead of an A.

Either it should be done away with, or all professors at the university should adhere to
the plus/minus system. It is unfair to have some teachers adhere and some not.

Each class should have 90-92 as an A- and so on.

Drop the minus and keep the plus for the last three of the ten points in the grade bracket.

Dislike it! How will it effect other semesters?

Consistency! In my experience, not all courses use this system.

C- should be counted as a 2.0, not a 1.9.

Being an engineering student and we all work very hard to get an A. The plus/minus
should only apply to B-D and not to A. Instead there should only be an A+ plus, with the
requirement being 98 percent or better, and 90-97 being an A.

Auburn's system has only pluses no minuses. That is what I prefer, but if that is impossible
then I would want to get rid of it all together.

An A+ should be a 4.66 an A should be a 4.33 an A- should be a 4.0 and so on down the
rest of the grade system.

An A-, B-, etc., should not be counted as a x.67 it should be changed to equal the whole
number... but if that is not possible, then the grading system is great I enjoy getting the extra points
with A+. Thanks.

An A- should not be counted less than 12 points.

An A should never count less than a 4. It's just wrong.

An "A" is an "A" no matter what, and I think the system is absolutely
ridiculous!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

All teachers should make it to where 90-92 is A-, 93-97 is A and 98-99 is A+ and so on for
each letter.

All professors must be forced to use it.

All of the grades such as a C+ and a B+ and so on should be counted but abolish the minus
system.

All grades could/would be unweighted, but departments have the option of allowing a
certain class average to be weighted. Say, a 98 would be awarded the current weighted grade for an
A+ if the professor/department so chooses.

All classes should have the same standards for what the ranges are between the pluses and
minuses.

All classes should award a plus or minus at a certain grade. For example, some teachers give
an A+ if you have above a 94 while others do it when it is 96-100. I believe that it should be used,
just in a uniform fashion.

Abolish entire plus/minus system except for plus range from 4.0 to 4.33 (A+, A, B, C, D, F
grading).

A-=90 A=95 and A+=100

A+=4.33 A or A-=4.0, etc. I believe this is the way UT does it. It helps those who work
hard to achieve an A+ but doesn't harm those who make a 92 or 93.

A+ value should start at 4.00 if we are to keep this system. If not, it should be abolished.

A+ should not be awarded. There is no reason to use a 4.33 scale instead of the typical 4.0
scale.

A+ should include '97.'

A+ should be 4.33 points.
A(90-96) = 4.0-->(this is what A students rightfully deserve)...A+(97-100) = 4.0+; (this would reward students who excel in their studies and deserve a higher grade).

A- should include only 90-91, A should be 92-97, and A+ should be 98-100.

A- should be worth more than it is now and same with B-, C-, and D-.

A- should be a 4.0, B- should be a 3.0 and so forth.

A reward system for a plus but no deduction for a minus.

A plus should be able to help out your GPA, but a minus should not penalize you...an A- shouldn't count as a 3.67 but rather a 4.0 because it is still an A.

A pass fail system eliminates a lot of the stress level. A teacher knows when their student has obtained the knowledge needed to move on, whether they choke on a test or not. It would also put more emphasis on learning instead of memorizing.

A number grade would help a great deal for a student who keeps up with their grades more closely.

A minus should no be less than the value of the regular grade (ex., a C- should be equal to 2).

A is an A no matter. All else has +/-.

+s but no more -s

+/- should not effect GPA--an A- AND A+ should be 4.0

+/- should be given based on the percentage of points earned and by that only.

+ should be 2/3 and -1/3 and not rounded off either way.

(90-94 A)(95-100 A+), (80-84 B), (85-89 B+), (70-74 C), (75-79 C+), etc.
Conclusions

Two-thirds (67.3%) of the survey respondents indicated the plus-minus grading system at The University of Alabama should be abolished. One-fifth (20.4%) of the respondents recommended no change, with nearly seven percent of the respondents desiring modifications to the grading system. Of the students that recommended modifications, many suggested keeping the plus grade, but removing the minus grade, while some suggested going to a numeric system.

There were no notable differences by class level in the responses, and only one difference among the colleges. The Capstone College of Nursing respondents were slightly more likely to want to abolish plus-minus grading than all of the other colleges.