Honors Thesis or Project: First Semester Grading

**Standard Grading:**

Choose standard grading (A, A-, B+, B, etc.) when the semester has clearly defined assignments or benchmarks that can be tallied into a semester grade that will not be altered by subsequent work. For example, an instructor might

- Submit an “A” to a student who has conducted excellent research to date
- Submit an appropriately low grade to a student whose performance to date is unacceptable due to frequent absence, or inadequate reporting or research.

**Advantages of standard grading:**

- Revised grading will be not be required later
- The student receives a clear, unambiguous progress assessment

Note: The grade for the first semester may differ from the grade of the second semester based upon the quality of the student's work in each.

**“Y” Grading:**

Yearlong grading allows the submission of a “Y” grade as a non-penalty incomplete.

- Honors thesis or project seminars may be designated as "Y" grading by the instructor during the course scheduling process. If selected, "Y" grading should also be noted in the syllabus.
- Honors thesis or projects individually contracted are always scheduled with the "Y" grading option.

Choose “Y” grading when you wish to

- Grade the yearlong effort only after the end of the second semester and you are
able to determine with confidence that the student has made satisfactory progress in the first semester (otherwise a low grade may be more appropriate)

- Use the “Y” grade as a neutral placeholder until the second semester is complete (vs. an INC grade which would average as an "F" until the grade is changed).

Consequences of Y grading

- In addition to submitting the grade for the final semester on SPIRE, you will need to submit a change of grade for the "Y" semester to a final grade. (You may do so on SPIRE for the most recent four semesters or via a UG Registrar's "Change of Grade" form for older semesters.)
- Students may be ignorant of serious problems with their coursework unless you have had a candid discussion with them.

Source URL (retrieved on 01/04/2019 - 10:29am):
https://www.honors.umass.edu/capstone-experience-first-semester-grading