

Policy 3-05: Grade Appeals

The grade appeals process is governed by the [University Student Code \(Policy 6-400\)](#).

The code recognizes instructors' professional expertise for evaluating student performance. This deference is reflected in the standard of review used in appeals, which is "arbitrary or capricious"—the instructor's decision will be upheld unless it is shown to be arbitrary or capricious, terms that are synonyms for "logical" and "rational." In other words, the issue is whether, in assigning the grade, the instructor acted logically and rationally. The burden is on the student to demonstrate that the instructor did not.

The code articulates a series of steps in the appeals process, each one to be completed within a specified number of days. It is the college policy to adhere to those deadlines consistently and as stated in the Code.

As stated in 6-400.IV.B of the code, initial appeals will be to the chair of the relevant department (not to the "dean's designee"). Subsequent appeals will be to an Academic Appeals Committee, which the dean will designate each year as part of his/her regular committee assignments.

To avoid misunderstandings with students about grades, instructors are urged to provide clear criteria in their syllabi for evaluating and grading student performance. The university's Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE) provides guidance on writing evaluation criteria. See <https://utah.instructure.com/courses/148446/wiki/syllabus-design>