

Group Definitions of Grade Inflation identified in Stage I of “Deflating Grady”,
January 2005

A neutral or perjorative term that describes what some perceive as the lowering of the value of a grade.

Grade inflation occurs when grades are elevated above the usual or established standards.

Grade inflation is the artificial increase in assigned grades that indicates a decrease in grading criteria rather than an accurate reflection of student's work or performance.

Grade inflation is when an instructor is assigning grades that are not commensurate with what students have earned to achieve a certain grade distribution.

Giving a higher mark for an assessment that would have been given to the same standards of work in the past.

Grade inflation is a rating higher than that of the historical, established student demonstrations of the learning outcomes. This rating may be higher due to a decrease in evaluator's expectations or simply raising the student scores.

At any level, grades are awarded above an approved standard without adequate proof of exceptional performances.

Disproportionate increase in grades w.r.t. quality work. It occurs when there are unclear goals, objectives, and assessment rubrics.

Grade inflation is demonstrated when work of equal quality receives progressively better grades each successive year and assumes to reflect decreased rigor.

Grade inflation is an overestimation of performance based on a subjective assessment of ability.

Grade inflation is a decrease in standards in comparison to the past for the purpose of showing higher achievement for students.

Grade inflation is a perception that students receive higher grades than is warranted, based on an unspoken standard.