

Grading Trends at Whitman College

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After increasing steadily for several years, the overall campus GPA and the percentage of grades in the A-range has decreased slightly for the last two fall semesters. While this can be seen as a welcome change from the trend of rising grades Whitman College has experienced in recent years, it should be taken with a note of caution. The figures for the 2005 Fall semester are higher than all years prior to 2002, and over the last two decades it has been common for grades to stall for a year or two before continuing to climb. The table below summarizes changes over the last 10 years, and the two graphs summarize changes in grading over the last 20 years.

Table 1: Average Campus Fall GPA and Fall Grade Distribution, 1996-2005

Semester	Avg. GPA	%A and B	%A	%B	%C
1996FA	3.173	84.8%	44.9%	40.0%	10.2%
1997FA	3.168	86.0%	46.3%	39.7%	9.8%
1998FA	3.173	85.1%	45.6%	39.5%	9.0%
1999FA	3.273	85.8%	47.3%	38.5%	8.6%
2000FA	3.291	87.4%	48.3%	39.1%	7.9%
2001FA	3.364	89.0%	52.4%	36.6%	6.1%
2002FA	3.400	89.9%	55.4%	34.5%	5.7%
2003FA	3.435	91.7%	58.4%	33.3%	5.3%
2004FA	3.408	90.4%	57.3%	33.1%	5.9%
2005FA	3.386	90.5%	54.9%	35.6%	6.0%

