

8888 University Drive, MBC | 2000 TEL: 778.782.3600
Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6

znaqvi@sfu.ca
www.sfu.ca/irp

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION:	Senate	DATE:	August 22, 2022
FROM:	Zareen Naqvi, Institutional Research and Planning (IRP)	PAGES:	1 of 1
RE:	IRP Reports for Information		

At a meeting of Senate held on March 7, 2011, Senator Paul Percival requested that relevant IRP reports, such as the annual Grades Report, be brought to Senate for information.

Attached are two reports for information:

- **2021/22 Grades Report:** This report is prepared once a year and it summarizes course grades at the University over a ten-year period. The 2021/22 Grades Report covers the period from 2012/13 to 2021/22. Attached is the Summary Report. More detailed information is available on IRP's website: <https://www.sfu.ca/irp/students/grades-report.html>
- **2021 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report:** The UGSS survey is conducted every fall term. The attached Highlights Report presents a summary of key findings from the Fall 2021 survey. Topics covered are selected in consultation with faculties, Student Services and other administrative units of the University. This year's topics included: course availability, credential completion times, teaching and curriculum, services, and university culture and environment. The full report is located at: <https://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/irp/surveys/ugss/2021%20UGSS%20Report.pdf>

If you have trouble accessing files on IRP's website, please contact askIRP@sfu.ca.

Enclosure

2021/22 Grades Report:
Historical Distribution of
Undergraduate and Graduate Course Grades
2012/13 to 2021/22

Prepared by
Helen Jung, Analyst
David Ham, Analyst
Jessica Tilley, Analyst
Institutional Research and Planning
Summer 2022

Table of Contents

I – Introduction	4
II – Definitions and Notes.....	4
III – Analysis.....	6
III.A – Undergraduate Course Grades.....	6
III.A.1 – Lower Division Course Grades	6
III.A.2 – Upper Division Course Grades	14
III.A.3 – General Observations	21
III.B – Undergraduate Course Grades by Student Faculty	21
III.C – Graduate Course Grades	24

I – Introduction

This report summarizes student course grades at Simon Fraser University over the ten-year period from 2012/13 to 2021/22.¹ SFU faculty and staff can access more detailed information at the SFU Institutional Research and Planning website (<https://www.sfu.ca/irp/students/grades-report.html>).

II – Definitions and Notes

To calculate the average course grades, each grade is assigned a numeric value, defined in Table 1. These values are weighted by the number of students who received each particular grade, to produce an overall average.

Table 1: Grades with a Numerical Equivalent

A+ = 4.33	B+ = 3.33	C+ = 2.33	D = 1.00	N = 0.00
A = 4.00	B = 3.00	C = 2.00	F = 0.00	
A- = 3.67	B- = 2.67	C- = 1.67	FD = 0.00	

Table 2 lists the grades that have no numerical equivalent, and are therefore omitted from the calculation of average grades. Although they are not included in the averages, credit is granted for the following grades: “AE”, “CC”, “CO”, “CR”, “P”, and “S”.

Table 2: Grades with No Numerical Equivalent

Grade	Definition
AE	aegrotat standing, compassionate pass
AN	audit, incomplete
AU	audit
CC	course challenge
CF	course challenge failed
CN	did not complete challenge
CO	complete
CR	credit without grade
DE	deferred grade
FX	formal exchange
GN	grade not reported
IP	in progress
NC	no credit
P	pass, ungraded
S	satisfactory
U	unsatisfactory
W	withdrawn
WD	withdrawal
WE	withdrawal under extenuating circumstances

¹ All data in this report reflect the current faculty structure.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, for the Spring 2020 term only, students were given the following grading options: (i) keep their assigned grade; (ii) for undergraduate courses, change their grade to "P" (Pass, if they were awarded a grade of "D" or higher); (iii) for graduate courses, choose a designation of "S/U" (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) or "AE" (Compassionate Pass, with the instructor's permission). Due to this grading policy, grades from 2019/20 may not be comparable to grades from other years.

In addition, grades from 2020/21 and on may not be comparable to grades from other years for various reasons. For the entire 2020/21 fiscal year and a portion of the 2021/22 fiscal year, the majority of courses were offered completely online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This mode of delivery, combined with the various other impacts of the pandemic on students and instructors, could have had an influence on grades. Furthermore, the Elective Grade System was in place from Spring 2021 and on. The Elective Grade System allows students in undergraduate programs to take a P/CR/NC grade instead of a standard letter grade for elective courses.

The grades listed in Table 2 are not included in any of the datasets used for this report, with the exception of (i) P grades due to the one-time Spring 2020 grading policy and (ii) P, CR, and NC grades due to the Elective Grade System in Spring 2021 and on.²

Among undergraduate courses, "lower division" courses are those numbered from XX1 to 299, inclusive. "Upper division" courses are numbered 300 to 499, inclusive.

Data reported on a yearly basis refers to fiscal year. For example, 2021/22 grades are the grades accumulated over the 2021 Summer term (SFU term code: 1214), the 2021 Fall term (SFU term code: 1217), and the 2022 Spring term (SFU term code: 1221). The grades data are as of July 25, 2022.

To protect student privacy, statistics based on fewer than five grades are not reported.

Percentages in tables are rounded to the nearest integer, so a "0%" may represent either (i) a true 0% or (ii) a percentage greater than 0% but less than 0.5%. Similarly, a "100%" may represent either (i) a true 100% or (ii) a percentage less than 100% but greater than or equal to 99.5%.

Co-op courses are excluded from this report. Where they could be identified, courses graded as Pass/Fail are also excluded.

Some of the undergraduate statistics in this report are based on student faculty. For these statistics, a detailed algorithm was used to assign each student to a single faculty in each term they took courses, based on factors such as the credential level (e.g. degrees prioritized over certificates) and when the student first had a faculty appear on their record.

This report uses abbreviations for faculties (e.g. APSC for the Faculty of Applied Sciences) and subjects (e.g. PSYC for Psychology). The full names represented by these abbreviations are listed in Appendix A. Note that sometimes a faculty has the same abbreviation as a subject code (e.g. BUS, EDUC, HSCI). The context should clarify which is being referred to; for example, in a section discussing faculty comparisons, "EDUC" would refer to the Faculty of Education rather than the "EDUC" subject code.

² For Spring 2020, it was not always possible to differentiate regular P grades from P grades that resulted due to the one-time grading policy, but this should have minimal effect on the P statistics. For Spring 2021 and on, it was possible to differentiate regular P/CR/NC grades from P/CR/NC grades due to the Elective Grade System.

III – Analysis

III.A – Undergraduate Course Grades³

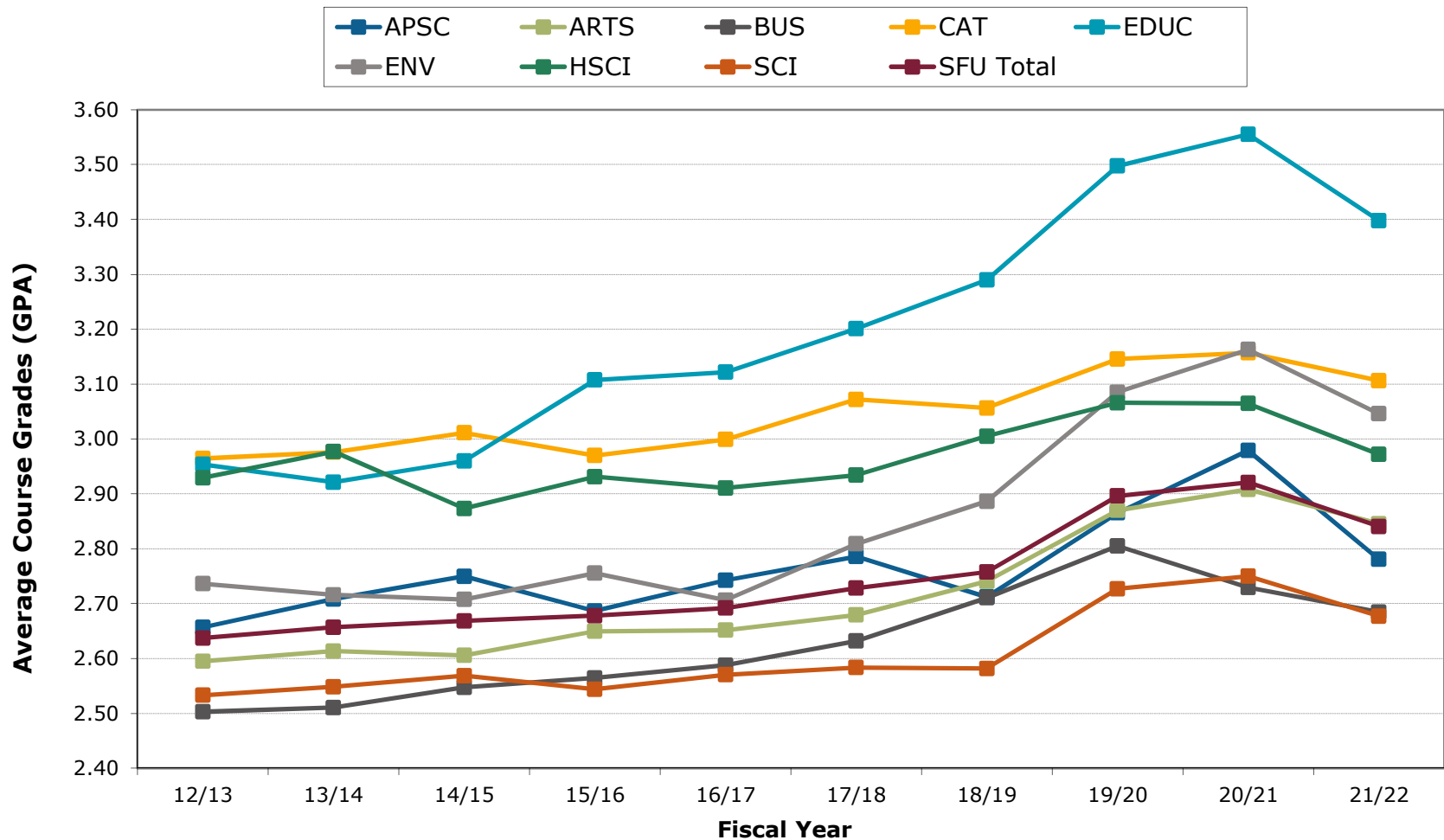
III.A.1 – Lower Division Course Grades (Courses Numbered XX1-299 Inclusive)

FACULTY COMPARISONS (see Table 3 and Figure A)

- EDUC awarded the highest average lower division grade in 2021/22. EDUC has awarded the highest average lower division course grades in seven of the last ten years, with an average awarded grade of 3.22 over the past decade.
- EDUC has awarded the highest percent of lower division “A” grades in nine of the past ten years (10-year proportion of 44%). Conversely, in all of the past ten years, APSC and SCI have awarded the highest percent of “F” grades.
- From 2012/13 through 2018/19, CAT, EDUC, and HSCI awarded higher average lower division grades than the other faculties (10-year averages in the range of 2.96 to 3.22).
- From 2012/13 through 2018/19, the next highest average lower division grades have been awarded in ENV, APSC, and ARTS, with 10-year averages of 2.87, 2.77, and 2.71, respectively. From 2016/17 to 2020/21, the average lower division grade awarded in ENV has been on an upward trend, and in 2021/22, ENV awarded the third highest average lower division grades.
- Lower division courses in BUS and SCI have generally awarded the lowest average grades.
- Average lower division course grades in 2021/22 were lower in every faculty compared to 2020/21.

³ Keep in mind that grades from 2019/20 and on may not be comparable to grades from other years; see the Definitions and Notes section for details.

Figure A
Average Undergraduate Course Grades Awarded by Course Faculty:
Lower Division



Notes: In order to better show the variation in the data, the y-axis above does not run from 0.00 to 4.33. Grades from 2019/20 and on may not be comparable to grades from other years for various reasons, including the COVID-19 pandemic and grading policy changes.

Table 3: Average Undergraduate Course Grades Awarded and Percentage of “A” Grades Awarded, by Course Faculty – Lower Division

Course Faculty	Average Course Grades		% "A" Grades Awarded	
	2021/22	10-Year Average	2021/22	10-Year Proportion
Applied Sciences	2.78	2.77	33%	29%
Arts and Social Sciences	2.85	2.71	27%	21%
Beedie School of Business	2.68	2.64	17%	16%
Communication, Art and Technology	3.11	3.04	35%	30%
Education	3.40	3.22	56%	44%
Environment	3.05	2.87	35%	28%
Health Sciences	2.97	2.96	29%	28%
Science	2.68	2.61	24%	22%
University Total	2.84	2.75	28%	24%

LONG-TERM COMPARISONS AND TRENDS WITHIN FACULTIES⁴

Comparing the average lower division grades awarded over the last ten years:

- Applied Sciences:
 - TEKX courses awarded the highest 10-year average lower division grade, but this is based on only three years of data and relatively few grades. Other than TEKX, CHIN has awarded the highest 10-year average lower division grade.
 - MACM awarded grades considerably below the 10-year faculty average.
- Arts and Social Sciences:
 - With the exception of SDA, the eight subjects in ARTS that awarded the highest average grades in the last ten years are all language subjects: PUNJ, INLG, PERS, ARAB, GRK, ITAL, and CHIN. Note that averages in some of these subjects are based on less than ten years of data: ARAB, GRK, INLG, PUNJ, and SDA. Furthermore, the averages for SDA, PERS, ARAB, GRK, and PUNJ are based on a relatively small number of grades.
 - ECON courses have awarded the lowest average lower division grade.
- Communication, Art and Technology:
 - PUB awarded the highest average lower division grade over the last 10 years.
 - IAT courses have awarded the lowest average lower division grades.
- Education:
 - On average, EDUC courses have awarded considerably higher lower division grades than FAL courses.

⁴ Faculties with only one subject at the lower division level are not discussed in this section since there are no comparisons to make. Subjects that awarded fewer than five grades in the most recent fiscal year, or awarded fewer than five grades in all previous fiscal years combined are also excluded from this section.

- Environment:
 - PLAN courses awarded the highest 10-year average lower division grade, but this is based on only three years of data and relatively few grades. Other than PLAN, SD has awarded the highest 10-year average lower division grade.
 - ARCH and REM awarded the lowest average lower division grades.
- Science:
 - Other than courses with the DATA subject code (which generally award few grades each year), the highest average lower division grades were awarded in MBB, BPK, and PHYS courses.
 - The lowest average lower division grade was awarded in MATH.

CURRENT COMPARISONS AND TRENDS WITHIN FACULTIES⁵

- Applied Sciences:
 - Other than TEKX (which had few grades awarded in 2021/22), the highest average lower division grades awarded in 2021/22 were in ENSC and SEE courses.
 - The lowest average lower division course grade awarded in 2021/22 was in MACM.
- Arts and Social Sciences:
 - Other than FASS (which had relatively few grades awarded in each class in 2021/22), the highest average lower division grade awarded in 2021/22 was in INLG.
 - Within the top five highest average lower division grades awarded in 2021/22, four of them were language subjects: INLG, PUNJ, JAPN, and PERS.
 - The lowest average lower division grade awarded in 2021/22 was in ECON.
- Communication, Art and Technology:
 - The highest average lower division grade awarded in 2021/22 was in PUB.
 - The lowest average lower division grade awarded in 2021/22 was in IAT.
- Education:
 - In 2021/22, the average lower division grade awarded in courses with the EDUC subject code were considerably higher than those in FAL.
- Environment:
 - The highest average lower division grade awarded in 2021/22 was in SD.
 - The lowest average lower division grade awarded in 2021/22 was in REM.
- Science:
 - Other than DATA (which, in 2021/22, consisted of a single 1-unit seminar course), the highest average lower division grades awarded in 2021/22 were in MBB and ACMA.
 - The lowest average lower division grade awarded in 2021/22 was in MACM.

⁵ Faculties with only one subject at the lower division level are not discussed in this section since there are no comparisons to make. Subjects that awarded fewer than five grades in the most recent fiscal year are also excluded from this section.

LARGE CHANGES IN 2020/21 TO 2021/22 AVERAGE GRADES⁶ (see Table 4)

Keeping in mind that 2020/21 and 2021/22 grades may not be comparable (see the Definitions and Notes section for details), the following subjects have seen large changes (of at least 0.25) in the average lower division grade awarded from last year to this year.

Table 4: Large Changes in Average Lower Division Course Grades

Subject	2020/21 Average Grade	2021/22 Average Grade	Difference in Average Grade
FASS *	3.15	3.58	+ 0.43
DATA *	3.81	4.16	+ 0.36
SD *	3.13	3.43	+ 0.30
MBB	3.28	3.03	- 0.25
FAL	2.91	2.64	- 0.27
GRK *	3.50	3.19	- 0.31
CMPT	3.00	2.68	- 0.33
PUNJ *	3.85	3.52	- 0.33
EVSC	3.54	3.20	- 0.34
ITAL	3.65	3.25	- 0.40
GERM *	3.49	3.08	- 0.41
ARAB *	3.66	3.23	- 0.43
PERS *	3.92	3.35	- 0.56

* These averages are based on relatively few grades.

⁶ Subjects that awarded fewer than five grades in either of the two most recent fiscal years are excluded from this section.

USE OF ELECTIVE GRADE SYSTEM (see Table 5, Table 6)

The Elective Grade System was in effect from Spring 2021 and onwards (see the Definitions and Notes section for details). This section of the report looks at what proportion of lower division grades were changed according to the Elective Grade System (i.e. grades converted to P, CR, or NC in Spring 2021 and the 2021/22 fiscal year). Due to 2021/22 being the first time the Elective Grade System was implemented for an entire fiscal year, it may not be comparable to Spring 2021.

Spring 2021

- SFU level:
 - Overall, 4% of the lower division grades in Spring 2021 used the Elective Grade System.
- Faculty level:
 - The faculties with the highest usage were ENV and ARTS (6% and 5%, respectively), which may be related to the number of courses in these faculties that are used as electives.
 - Courses in BUS had the lowest percentage of grades awarded which used the policy (1%).
- Subject level:
 - 38 of the 58 subjects with lower division grades in Spring 2021 had 5% or less of their grades converted to P, CR, or NC.
 - The highest usage of the policy was in ARAB (25%), EASC (15%), GA (15%), and GRK (14%). Note that ARAB and GRK awarded relatively few grades in Spring 2021 (see Table 6).
 - There were 6 subjects which had nobody use the policy: ENSC, FAL, FAN, INLG, MBB, and SDA (note that FAL and FAN are not eligible for the Elective Grade System).

2021/22

- SFU level:
 - Overall, 3% of the lower division grades in 2021/22 used the Elective Grade System.
- Faculty level:
 - The faculty with the highest usage was ENV (6%), which may be related to the number of courses in this faculty that are used as electives.
 - Courses in APSC and BUS had the lowest percentages of grades awarded which used the policy (1% each).

- Subject level:
 - 52 of the 62 subjects with lower division grades in 2021/22 had 5% or less of their grades converted to P, CR, or NC.
 - The highest usage of the policy was in ACMA (10%) and ARCH (8%) (see Table 6).
 - There were 10 subjects which had nobody use the policy: DATA, FAL, FAN, GERO, GRK, INLG, MSE, PERS, PUB, and SEE (note that FAL and FAN are not eligible for the Elective Grade System).

Table 5: Use of Elective Grade System by Course Faculty – Lower Division

Course Faculty	Spring 2021		2021/22	
	% Used	N	% Used	N
Applied Sciences	3%	3,163	1%	9,093
Arts and Social Sciences	5%	14,300	3%	36,901
Beedie School of Business	1%	3,391	1%	8,550
Communication, Art and Technology	4%	4,227	2%	10,753
Education	3%	1,218	3%	3,139
Environment	6%	2,450	6%	8,733
Health Sciences	4%	1,206	2%	2,979
Science	4%	10,545	2%	30,592
University Total	4%	40,500	3%	110,740

Table 6: Use of Elective Grade System by Subject – Lower Division

Subject	Spring 2021		2021/22		Subject	Spring 2021		2021/22	
	% Used	N	% Used	N		% Used	N	% Used	N
ACMA	7%	14	10%	120	HUM	6%	283	3%	1,160
ARAB	25%	20	7%	57	IAT	5%	1,376	2%	3,847
ARCH	10%	825	8%	3,198	INDG	3%	336	2%	915
BISC	1%	983	1%	2,878	INLG	0%	132	0%	908
BPK	9%	1,377	6%	4,057	IS	7%	282	2%	772
BUS	1%	3,391	1%	8,550	ITAL	5%	43	6%	128
CA	5%	1,433	3%	3,663	JAPN	4%	239	3%	453
CHEM	2%	1,818	1%	6,542	LBST	5%	44	3%	278
CHIN	4%	95	5%	249	LING	5%	533	5%	1,909
CMNS	1%	1,307	1%	3,056	MACM	3%	682	1%	1,462
CMPT	4%	1,856	2%	5,243	MATH	4%	2,614	1%	7,383
COGS	9%	404	5%	906	MBB	0%	329	0%	1,027
CRIM	2%	2,010	2%	4,777	MSE	0%	651	0%	1,147
DATA	-	0	0%	44	PERS	-	0	0%	15
EASC	15%	263	7%	587	PHIL	10%	1,082	5%	3,181
ECON	5%	1,875	3%	4,330	PHYS	2%	1,407	2%	3,281
EDUC	3%	1,101	3%	2,860	PLAN	-	0	2%	170
ENGL	4%	1,101	2%	2,649	POL	5%	903	2%	1,863
ENSC	0%	114	0%	1,455	PSYC	4%	2,651	3%	6,283
EVSC	2%	224	5%	559	PUB	3%	111	0%	187
FAL	0%	117	0%	279	PUNJ	-	0	7%	41
FAN	0%	63	0%	205	REM	3%	317	7%	941
FASS	-	0	7%	153	SA	6%	671	5%	1,676
FREN	9%	285	5%	607	SCI	3%	33	-	0
GA	15%	73	7%	234	SD	8%	38	2%	124
GEOG	5%	1,046	4%	3,741	SDA	0%	47	2%	50
GERM	7%	56	4%	135	SEE	0%	217	0%	442
GERO	10%	29	0%	18	SPAN	5%	75	1%	249
GRK	14%	7	0%	19	STAT	8%	1,239	3%	3,682
GSWS	1%	212	2%	956	TEKX	7%	14	4%	69
HIST	7%	735	4%	1,700	WL	9%	111	2%	291
HSCI	4%	1,206	2%	2,979					

III.A.2 – Upper Division Course Grades (Courses Numbered 300-499 Inclusive)

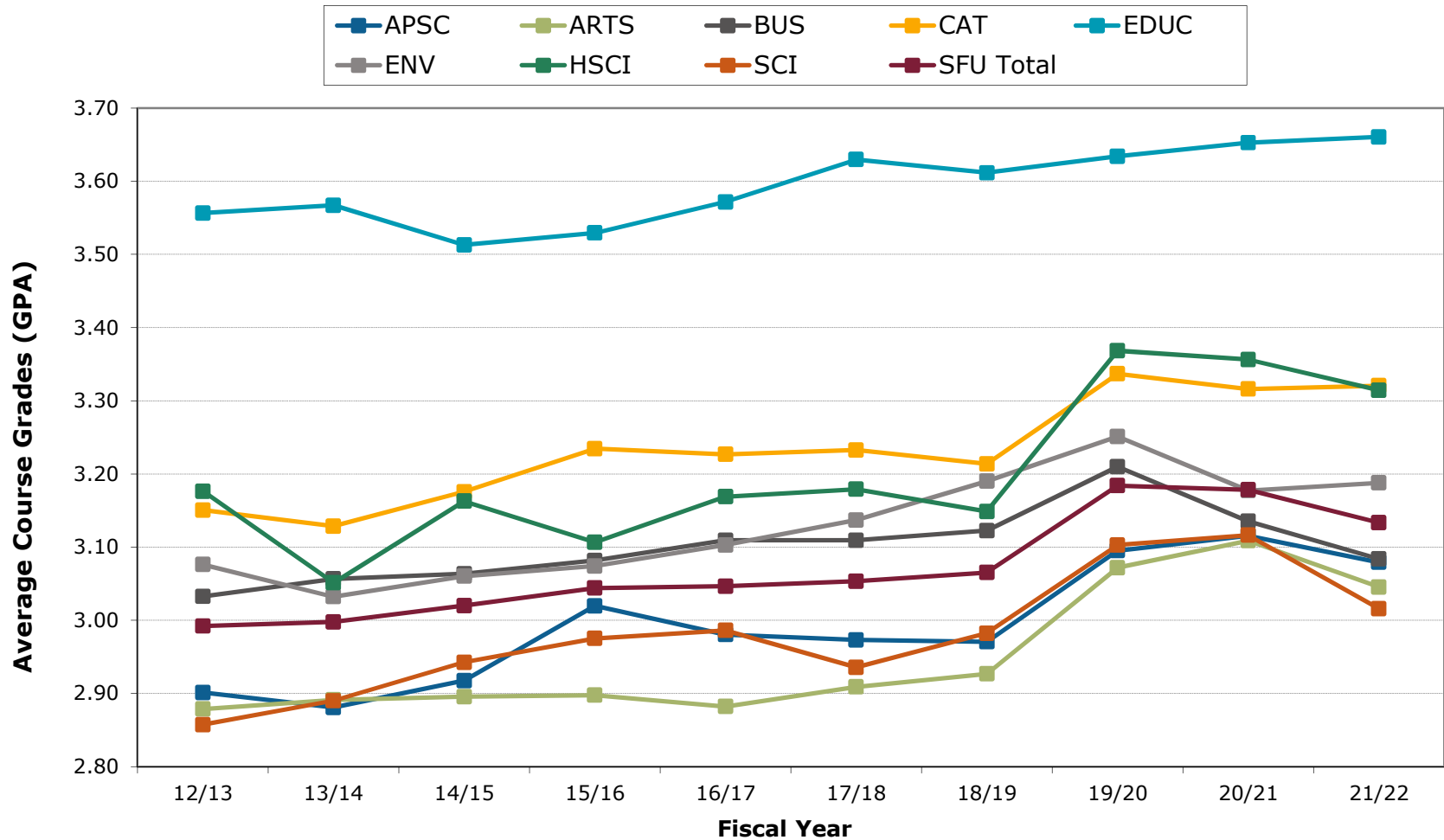
FACULTY COMPARISONS (see Table 7 and Figure B)

- EDUC awarded the highest average upper division course grades in each of the last ten years (10-year average grade: 3.59).
- The next highest average upper division grades awarded over the past ten years were in CAT, HSCI, ENV, and BUS. (10-year averages in the range of 3.10 to 3.23).
- The remaining faculties have consistently awarded lower average upper division grades (10-year averages in the range of 2.95 to 3.00).
- EDUC has awarded the highest percent of “A” grades in each of the last ten years (10-year proportion: 66%).
- Average upper division course grades in 2021/22 were higher in every faculty except for ENV and BUS, when compared to 2018/19 (i.e. the last full fiscal year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic). This may be due in part to the Elective Grade System (see Definitions and Notes section for details).

Table 7: Average Undergraduate Course Grades Awarded and Percentage of “A” Grades Awarded, by Course Faculty – Upper Division

Course Faculty	Average Course Grades		% "A" Grades Awarded	
	2021/22	10-Year Average	2021/22	10-Year Proportion
Applied Sciences	3.08	3.00	39%	34%
Arts and Social Sciences	3.05	2.95	32%	28%
Beedie School of Business	3.08	3.10	29%	32%
Communication, Art and Technology	3.32	3.23	46%	39%
Education	3.66	3.59	72%	66%
Environment	3.19	3.13	40%	38%
Health Sciences	3.31	3.20	48%	40%
Science	3.02	2.98	35%	33%
University Total	3.13	3.07	38%	35%

Figure B
Average Undergraduate Course Grades Awarded by Course Faculty:
Upper Division



Notes: In order to better show the variation in the data, the y-axis above does not run from 0.00 to 4.33. Grades from 2019/20 and on may not be comparable to grades from other years for various reasons, including the COVID-19 pandemic and grading policy changes.

LONG-TERM COMPARISONS AND TRENDS WITHIN FACULTIES⁷

Comparing the average upper division grades awarded over the last ten years:

- Applied Sciences:
 - SEE courses awarded the highest average upper division grade but this is based on only two years of data.
 - CMPT courses awarded the lowest average upper division grade.
- Arts and Social Sciences:
 - SDA offered upper division courses for the first time in 2021/22. Since it did not offer upper division courses prior to this year, the 10-year average is not discussed.
 - DIAL courses awarded the highest average upper division grade but this is based on relatively few grades in each class.
 - ECON awarded the lowest average upper division grade.
- Communication, Art and Technology:
 - CA awarded the highest average upper division grade over the past ten years.
 - IAT awarded the lowest average upper division grade.
- Environment:
 - Since PLAN awarded fewer than five grades in all previous fiscal years combined, the 10-year average is not discussed.
 - Over the past ten years, EVSC courses awarded the highest average upper division grade. Note that this average is based on only six years of data and one of those years have very few grades.
 - GEOG awarded the lowest average upper division grade.
- Science:
 - MASC awarded the highest average upper division grades but this is based on relatively few grades.
 - MACM courses awarded an average upper division grade considerably below the faculty average.

⁷ Faculties with only one subject at the upper division level are not discussed in this section since there are no comparisons to make. Subjects that awarded fewer than five grades in the most recent fiscal year, or awarded fewer than five grades in all previous fiscal years combined are also excluded from this section.

CURRENT COMPARISONS AND TRENDS WITHIN FACULTIES⁸

- Applied Sciences:
 - SEE awarded the highest average upper division grade in 2021/22.
 - CMPT awarded the lowest average upper division grade in 2021/22.
- Arts and Social Sciences:
 - Other than SDA (which offered upper division courses for the first time in 2021/22), JAPN awarded the highest average upper division grade in 2021/22.
 - LBST awarded the lowest average upper division grade in 2021/22.
- Communication, Art and Technology:
 - PUB and CA awarded the highest average upper division grades in 2021/22.
 - IAT awarded the lowest average upper division grade in 2021/22.
- Environment:
 - Other than PLAN (which had relatively few grades awarded in 2021/22), EVSC awarded the highest average upper division grade in 2021/22.
 - REM and GEOG awarded the lowest average upper division grades in 2021/22.
- Science:
 - Other than MASC (which had relatively few grades awarded in 2021/22), MBB awarded the highest average upper division grade in 2021/22.
 - NUSC awarded the lowest average upper division grade in 2021/22.

LARGE CHANGES IN 2020/21 TO 2021/22 AVERAGE GRADES⁹ (see Table 8)

Keeping in mind that 2020/21 and 2021/22 grades may not be comparable (see the Definitions and Notes section for details), the following subjects have seen large changes (of at least 0.25) in the average upper division grade awarded from last year to this year.

Table 8: Large Changes in Average Upper Division Course Grades

Subject	2020/21 Average Grade	2021/22 Average Grade	Difference in Average Grade
JAPN *	3.59	3.92	+ 0.34
GA *	2.85	3.17	+ 0.31
CHIN *	3.18	3.49	+ 0.31
MACM	2.98	2.71	- 0.26
ACMA *	3.41	3.09	- 0.31
NUSC *	2.94	2.56	- 0.38

* These averages are based on relatively few grades.

⁸ Faculties with only one subject at the upper division level are not discussed in this section since there are no comparisons to make. Subjects that awarded fewer than five grades in the most recent fiscal year are also excluded from this section.

⁹ Subjects that awarded fewer than five grades in either of the two most recent fiscal years are excluded from this section.

USE OF ELECTIVE GRADE SYSTEM (see Table 9, Table 10)

The Elective Grade System was in effect from Spring 2021 and onwards (see the Definitions and Notes section for details). This section of the report looks at what proportion of upper division grades were changed according to the Elective Grade System (i.e. grades converted to P, CR, or NC in Spring 2021 and the fiscal year 2021/22). Due to 2021/22 being the first time the Elective Grade System was implemented for an entire fiscal year, it may not be comparable to Spring 2021.

Spring 2021

- SFU level:
 - Overall, 2% of the upper division grades in Spring 2021 used the Elective Grade System.
- Faculty level:
 - The faculty with the highest usage was ARTS (5%), which may be related to the number of courses in this faculty that are used as electives.
 - Courses in BUS had the lowest percentage of grades awarded which used the policy (less than 0.5%, so it shows as 0% in Table 9).
- Subject level:
 - The subjects with the highest usage of the policy were: SCI (27%), NUSC (11%), WL (11%), PHIL (10%), and ECON (10%). Note that SCI and NUSC awarded relatively few grades in Spring 2021 (see Table 10).
 - There were 11 subjects which had nobody use the policy: ACMA, CHIN, COGS, DIAL, EASC, EVSC, GA, INLG, ITAL, JAPN, and PLAN (some of these subjects awarded relatively few grades in Spring 2021; see Table 10). There were many other subjects which only had a few percent of the grades using the Elective Grade System.

2021/22

- SFU level:
 - Overall, 2% of the upper division grades in 2021/22 used the Elective Grade System.
- Faculty level:
 - Among the faculties, courses in ARTS had the highest usage of the policy (4%).
 - Courses in BUS and HSCI had the lowest usage of the policy (less than 0.5% each, so they show as 0% in Table 9).
- Subject level:
 - The subjects with the highest usage of the policy were: ECON (8%), SCI (7%), and HUM (6%).
 - There were 19 subjects which had nobody use the policy.

Table 9: Use of Elective Grade System by Course Faculty – Upper Division

Course Faculty	Spring 2021		2021/22	
	% Used	N	% Used	N
Applied Sciences	2%	4,002	1%	10,213
Arts and Social Sciences	5%	10,904	4%	26,661
Beedie School of Business	0%	4,887	0%	13,016
Communication, Art and Technology	1%	2,884	1%	6,628
Education	2%	1,298	1%	5,210
Environment	2%	1,371	2%	3,469
Health Sciences	1%	1,682	0%	3,410
Science	1%	4,800	1%	11,175
University Total	2%	31,828	2%	79,782

Table 10: Use of Elective Grade System by Subject – Upper Division

Subject	Spring 2021		2021/22		Subject	Spring 2021		2021/22	
	% Used	N	% Used	N		% Used	N	% Used	N
ACMA	0%	51	0%	77	INDG	2%	139	2%	366
ARCH	4%	233	4%	863	INLG	0%	117	0%	313
BISC	1%	944	1%	2,006	IS	6%	299	2%	747
BPK	0%	1,050	0%	2,622	ITAL	0%	8	0%	6
BUS	0%	4,887	0%	13,016	JAPN	0%	25	0%	48
CA	1%	485	1%	1,205	LBST	5%	129	2%	380
CHEM	1%	187	0%	372	LING	2%	296	3%	714
CHIN	0%	24	2%	60	MACM	2%	259	0%	733
CMNS	1%	1,322	0%	2,766	MASC	-	0	0%	15
CMPT	2%	2,686	2%	6,910	MATH	5%	397	3%	899
COGS	0%	10	2%	65	MBB	0%	736	1%	1,580
CRIM	2%	2,737	2%	6,437	MSE	1%	441	0%	1,499
DIAL	0%	95	0%	72	NUSC	11%	9	0%	36
EASC	0%	69	0%	193	PHIL	10%	344	5%	1,003
ECON	10%	1,710	8%	4,719	PHYS	1%	110	1%	280
EDUC	2%	1,298	1%	5,210	PLAN		2	3%	34
ENGL	2%	474	1%	1,149	POL	5%	478	1%	1,077
ENSC	0%	875	0%	1,629	PSYC	7%	2,061	3%	4,997
EVSC	0%	109	0%	164	PUB	2%	186	4%	563
FREN	1%	205	0%	376	REM	5%	303	2%	953
GA	0%	8	0%	12	SA	3%	541	4%	1,315
GEOG	0%	659	1%	1,284	SCI	27%	15	7%	42
GERM	-	0		1	SD	5%	65	0%	171
GERO	6%	141	4%	433	SDA	-	0	0%	10
GSWS	3%	383	2%	618	SEE	-	0	0%	175
HIST	2%	455	1%	1,097	STAT	2%	973	3%	2,320
HSCI	1%	1,682	0%	3,410	URB	-	0		3
HUM	6%	170	6%	479	WL	11%	55	4%	164
IAT	1%	891	1%	2,094					

III.A.3 – General Observations (All Undergraduate Courses)

- In 2021/22, the average undergraduate grade awarded was 2.96, which is slightly lower than the 2020/21 average of 3.04. Both of these averages are higher than the average undergraduate grades in years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which ranged from 2.79 to 2.89.
- The average undergraduate grade awarded over the past ten years is 2.88.
- Over the past ten years, upper division courses have consistently awarded higher average grades than lower division courses in all faculties.

III.B – Undergraduate Course Grades by Student Faculty (see Table 11 and Figure C)

This section summarizes the 2021/22 undergraduate course grade distributions within each faculty, controlling for the faculty of undergraduate students enrolled in the courses.

Table 11: 2021/22 Average Undergraduate Course Grades Awarded and Percentage of “A” Grades Awarded, by Student Faculty

Student Faculty	Average Course Grades	% "A" Grades Awarded
Applied Sciences	2.93	34%
Arts and Social Sciences	2.88	28%
Beedie School of Business	3.01	29%
Communication, Art and Technology	3.09	36%
Education	3.37	56%
Environment	2.93	33%
Health Sciences	2.99	34%
Science	2.98	35%
All Undergraduate Students	2.96	32%

By Student Faculty

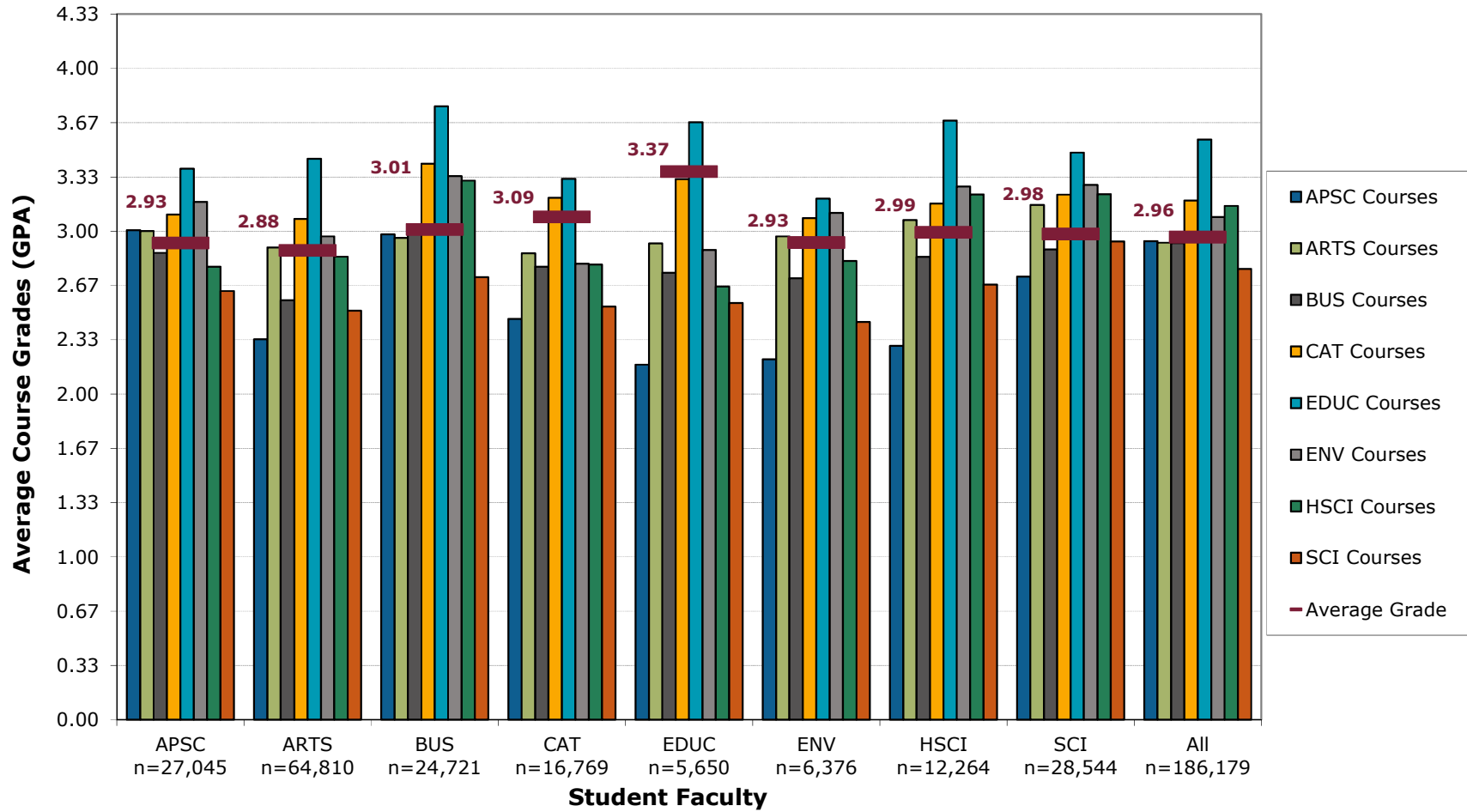
- Students from all faculties most frequently took courses from their own faculties.
- Students from EDUC were awarded the highest average grade (3.37) in 2021/22.
- Students from CAT, BUS, HSCI, and SCI were awarded average grades from 2.98 to 3.09.
- Students from ARTS, APSC, and ENV were awarded the lowest average grades in 2021/22 (2.88, 2.93, and 2.93, respectively).
- Students in all faculties were awarded their highest average grades in courses taught in EDUC.

- Students from ARTS had the highest proportion of their 2021/22 grades use the Elective Grade System (3%).

By Course Faculty

- Courses in all faculties were most frequently taken by students from that faculty. The one exception is that courses in ENV were most frequently taken by ARTS students.
- In courses offered by ARTS and SCI, students from SCI were awarded the highest average grades in 2021/22.
- In courses offered by APSC, students from APSC were awarded the highest average grade in 2021/22.
- In courses offered by BUS, CAT, EDUC, and ENV students from BUS were awarded the highest average grades in 2021/22.
- In courses offered by HSCI, students from BUS were also awarded the highest average grade in 2021/22. However, this was based on relatively few students. Students from HSCI and SCI were awarded the next highest average grade in courses offered by HSCI in 2021/22.
- Courses offered by ENV had the highest proportion of their 2021/22 grades use the Elective Grade System (5%).

Figure C
Undergraduate Course Grades, 2021/22
Course Faculty vs. Student Faculty



Notes: Only averages based on 5 or more grades are graphed.
 Only includes grades awarded to undergraduate students.
 Grades from 2021/22 may not be comparable to grades from other years for various reasons, including the COVID-19 pandemic and grading policy changes.

III.C – Graduate Course Grades¹⁰

FACULTY COMPARISONS (see Table 12 and Figure D)

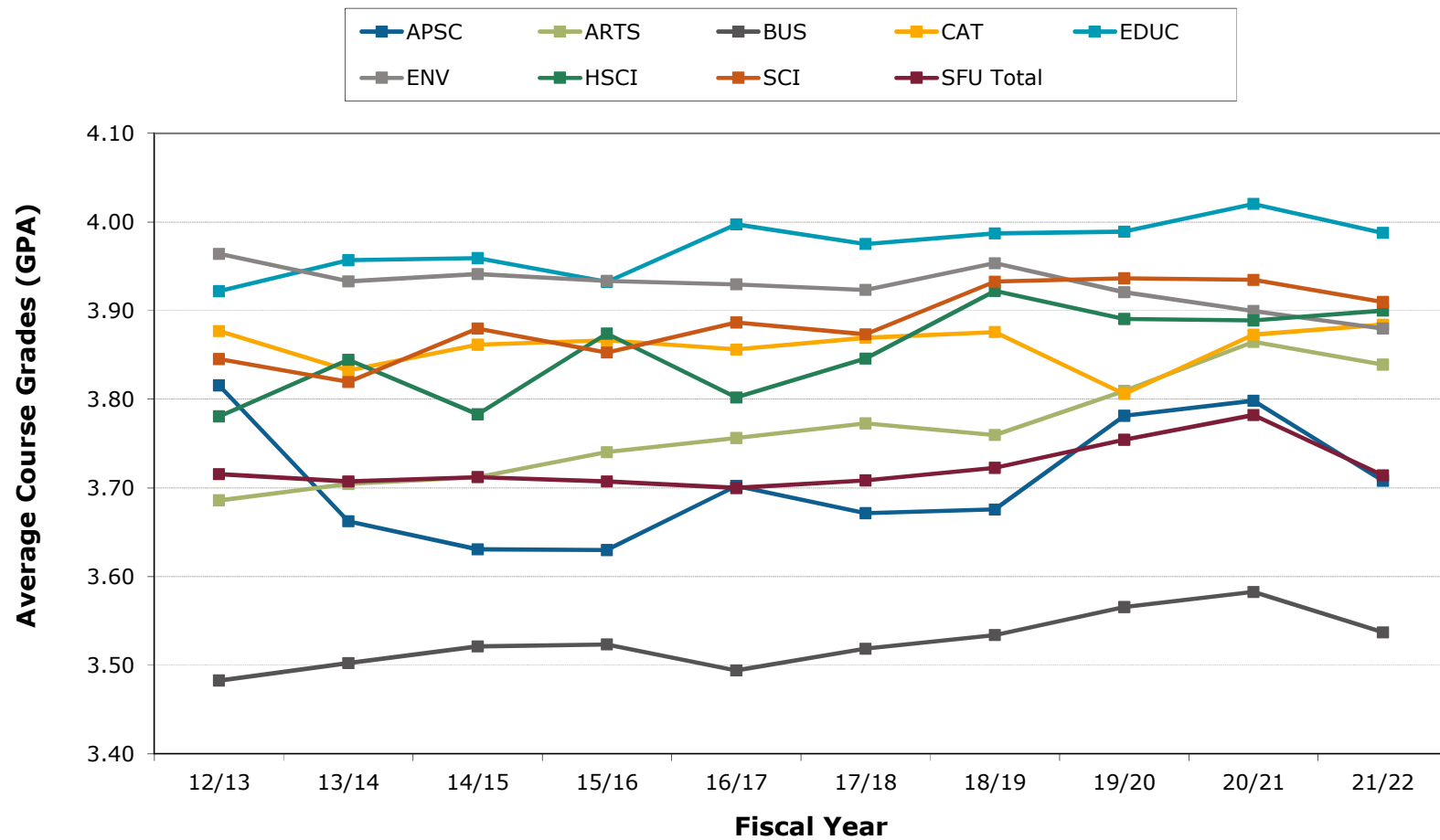
- EDUC and ENV awarded the highest average graduate course grades in seven of the past ten years. From 2019/20 to 2021/22, SCI surpassed ENV for the second highest average graduate-level course grade. The 10-year average graduate course grades for EDUC, ENV, and SCI are 3.97, 3.93, and 3.89, respectively.
- With the next highest average grades over the past decade, CAT and HSCI awarded average graduate-level grades of 3.86, and 3.85, respectively.
- ARTS and APSC have generally awarded lower average graduate grades than all other faculties except BUS (10-year averages of 3.77 and 3.71, respectively).
- BUS has awarded the lowest average graduate grades in each of the past ten years, with a 10-year average grade of 3.53.

Table 12: Average Graduate Course Grades Awarded and Percentage of “A” Grades Awarded, by Course Faculty

Course Faculty	Average Course Grades		% "A" Grades Awarded	
	2021/22	10-Year Average	2021/22	10-Year Proportion
Applied Sciences	3.71	3.71	74%	75%
Arts and Social Sciences	3.84	3.77	85%	79%
Beedie School of Business	3.54	3.53	53%	52%
Communication, Art and Technology	3.88	3.86	89%	88%
Education	3.99	3.97	95%	94%
Environment	3.88	3.93	92%	94%
Health Sciences	3.90	3.85	94%	89%
Science	3.91	3.89	88%	87%
University Total	3.71	3.72	71%	72%

¹⁰ Keep in mind that grades from 2019/20 and on may not be comparable to grades from other years; see the Definitions and Notes section for details.

Figure D
Average Graduate Course Grades Awarded by Course Faculty



Notes: In order to better show the variation in the data, the y-axis above does not run from 0.00 to 4.33. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, grades from 2019/20 and on may not be comparable to grades from other years.

LONG-TERM COMPARISONS AND TRENDS WITHIN FACULTIES¹¹

Comparing the average graduate course grades awarded over the last ten years:

- Applied Sciences:
 - SEE awarded the highest average graduate course grade but this is based on only three years of data and relatively few grades. Other than SEE, MSE awarded the highest average graduate course grade over the past 10 years.
 - ENSC awarded the lowest average graduate course grade.
- Arts and Social Sciences:
 - PSYC awarded the highest average graduate course grade over the past ten years.
 - ALS awarded the lowest average graduate course grade.
- Communication, Art and Technology:
 - Over the past ten years, all subjects within CAT have awarded similar average graduate course grades.
- Environment:
 - All subjects within ENV have awarded similar average graduate course grades. Note that ECO is based on only seven years of data, and EVSC is based on only two years of data with relatively few grades awarded each year.
- Science:
 - BISC, NEUR, and BPK awarded the highest 10-year average grades in graduate-level courses. Note that BPK and NEUR awarded relatively few grades at the graduate level over the past ten years, and the average grade for NEUR is based on only three years of data.
 - ACMA and PHYS awarded the lowest average graduate course grades. Note that ACMA awarded relatively few grades in each of the past ten years.

¹¹ Faculties with only one subject at the graduate level are not discussed in this section, since there are no comparisons to make. Subjects that awarded fewer than five grades in the most recent fiscal year, or awarded fewer than five grades in all previous fiscal years combined are also excluded from this section.

CURRENT COMPARISONS AND TRENDS WITHIN FACULTIES¹²

- Applied Sciences:
 - SEE awarded the highest average graduate course grade in 2021/22.
 - ENSC awarded the lowest average graduate course grade in 2021/22.
- Arts and Social Sciences:
 - PSYC awarded the highest average graduate course grade in 2021/22.
 - Other than HUM which awarded very few graduate-level grades in 2021/22, the lowest average graduate course grade was awarded in ALS.
- Communication, Art and Technology:
 - PUB awarded the highest average graduate course grade in 2021/22.
 - IAT awarded the lowest average graduate course grade in 2021/22.
- Environment:
 - REM and EVSC awarded the highest average graduate course grade in 2021/22. Note that EVSC awarded relatively few grades in 2021/22.
 - ECO awarded the lowest average graduate course grade in 2021/22.
- Science:
 - The highest average graduate course grades in 2021/22 were in BISC and EASC.
 - The lowest average graduate course grades in 2021/22 were in ACMA, BPK, and PHYS. Note that ACMA and BPK awarded relatively few grades in 2021/22.

LARGE CHANGES IN 2020/21 TO 2021/22 AVERAGE GRADES¹³ (see Table 13)

Keeping in mind that 2020/21 and 2021/22 grades may not be comparable (see the Definitions and Notes section for details), the following subjects have seen large changes (of at least 0.25) in the average graduate course grade awarded from last year to this year.

Table 13: Large Changes in Average Graduate Course Grades

Subject	2020/21 Average Grade	2021/22 Average Grade	Difference in Average Grade
FREN *	2.48	3.67	+ 1.19
LING *	3.99	3.67	- 0.32
ECO	4.03	3.70	- 0.33
BPK *	4.19	3.59	- 0.60
HUM *	4.00	3.13	- 0.86
ACMA *	3.86	2.67	- 1.19

* These averages are based on relatively few grades.

¹² Faculties with only one subject at the graduate level are not discussed in this section, since there are no comparisons to make. Subjects that awarded fewer than five grades in the most recent fiscal year are also excluded from this section.

¹³ Subjects that awarded fewer than five grades in either of the two most recent fiscal years are excluded from this section.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- In 2021/22, the average graduate grade awarded is 3.71, which is lower than last year's 3.78 average. The average graduate grade awarded at the university was relatively stable from 2012/13 to 2018/19 (between 3.70 and 3.72), increased slightly in 2019/20 and 2020/21, and decreased back down to the 3.70 to 3.72 range in 2021/22.
- The average graduate grade awarded over the past ten years is 3.72.

APPENDIX A: FACULTY AND SUBJECT ABBREVIATIONS

Faculty Abbreviations

APSC	Applied Sciences
ARTS	Arts and Social Sciences
BUS	Beedie School of Business
CAT	Communication, Art and Technology
EDUC	Education
ENV	Environment
HSCI	Health Sciences
SCI	Science

Subject Abbreviations

Applied Sciences

CHIN	Chinese
CMPT	Computing Science
ENSC	Engineering Science
MACM	Mathematics and Computing Science
MSE	Mechatronic Systems Engineering
SEE	Sustainable Energy Engineering
TEKX	Technology

Arts and Social Sciences

ALS	Applied Legal Studies
ARAB	Arabic
BUEC	Business Administration and Economics
CHIN	Chinese
COGS	Cognitive Science
CRIM	Criminology
DIAL	Dialogue
EAS	English for Academic Success
ECON	Economics
ENGL	English
EXPL	Explorations
FASS	Arts and Social Sciences
FREN	French
GA	Global Asia
GERM	German
GERO	Gerontology
GRK	Greek
GS	General Studies
GSWS	Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies
HIST	History
HS	Hellenic Studies
HUM	Humanities
INDG	Indigenous Studies

Arts and Social Sciences (continued)

INLG	Indigenous Languages
IS	International Studies
ISPO	International Studies and Political Science
ITAL	Italian
JAPN	Japanese
LANG	Language
LAS	Latin American Studies
LBST	Labour Studies
LING	Linguistics
LS	Liberal Studies
PERS	Persian
PHIL	Philosophy
PLCY	Public Policy
POL	Political Science
PSYC	Psychology
PUNJ	Punjabi
SA	Sociology and Anthropology
SDA	Social Data Analytics
SPAN	Spanish
TRSS	Terrorism, Risk, and Security Studies
URB	Urban Studies
WL	World Literature

Beedie School of Business

BUEC	Business Administration and Economics
BUS	Business Administration

Communication, Art and Technology

CA	Contemporary Arts
CMNS	Communication
IAT	Interactive Arts and Technology
PUB	Publishing

Education

EDUC	Education
FAL	Foundations of Academic Literacy

Environment

ARCH	Archaeology
ECO	Ecological Restoration
ENV	Environment
EVSC	Environmental Science
GEOG	Geography
PLAN	Planning
REM	Resource and Environmental Management
SD	Sustainable Development

Health Sciences

HSCI Health Sciences

Science

ACMA Actuarial Mathematics
APMA Applied Mathematics
BISC Biological Sciences
BPK Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology
CHEM Chemistry
DATA Data Science
EASC Earth Sciences
FAN Foundations of Analytical and Quantitative Reasoning
MACM Mathematics and Computing Science
MASC Marine Science
MATH Mathematics
MBB Molecular Biology and Biochemistry
NEUR Neuroscience
NUSC Nuclear Science
ONC Oncology
PHYS Physics
SCI Science
STAT Statistics