



Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

To Whom It May Concern:

New College of Florida (NCF) is a member of the State University System of Florida, a nationally recognized honors college, and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). New College offers a unique educational program patterned after New College of Oxford University. The program is designed for highly qualified, academically motivated students in small class settings with opportunities for advanced independent research.

At NCF, students' progress is based on demonstrated competence and real mastery rather than on the accumulation of credits and grades. At the end of a term, students receive written evaluations of their performance as "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory." Because New College is the Honors College for the state of Florida, instructors have high expectations for student outcomes, and established performance norms are high. This means that student work that is designated satisfactory in a course, tutorial, independent reading project, or independent study project is apt to exceed common minimum standards and would likely earn a B or an A in a traditional grading system. The narrative portion of the evaluation provides a description of the endeavor, an account of the student's work, and a performance assessment using various criteria appropriate to the undertaking. The evaluation discusses the student's intellectual development and points to areas that the student should address in future educational activities. In this way, the evaluation differs dramatically from a letter grade which merely places the student in a rank or band. Only satisfactory undertakings are listed on the transcript.

The content of the narrative evaluation is a personal communication between the professor and student and is never considered part of the official transcript. However, a student can choose to provide copies of evaluations to prospective employers, graduate admissions committees, and the like. Outside evaluators, however, should note the context of narrative evaluations as documents intended to guide students. Thus, a narrative evaluation of even the strongest student performance may contain critical comments intended to help the student improve.

Our narrative evaluation system is not designed for quick translation into a traditional grading system. However, if you are unable to fully consider a candidate from New College of Florida without a required GPA or certification of performance above a GPA threshold, we do conduct reviews of student academic performance upon request for those students needing confirmation of a performance threshold.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Provost at provost@ncf.edu.

Sincerely,

David Rancourt
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs