

May 2020



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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Law school transcripts and law student grade point averages should be evaluated with an awareness of each institution's grading practices and standards of academic performance. The University of Idaho College of Law has resisted a widespread trend toward "grade inflation." The College does not elevate grades through an institutional grading "norm" or a mandatory grading curve.

Many law schools today reportedly have class-wide cumulative grade point averages exceeding 3.00, especially among students in their second and third years. At the University of Idaho College of Law, upon conclusion of the Spring 2019 semester, the class-wide cumulative grade point averages, for the Class of 2019, Class of 2020, and Class of 2021 were as follows:

| | Class-wide Average GPA | Class-wide Median GPA |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| First-year class (2021) | 2.72 | 2.83 |
| Second-year students (2020) | 3.03 | 3.34 |
| Third-year students (2019) | 3.02 | 2.96 |

These figures reflect rigorous grading practices by individual faculty throughout all three years of a law student's course of study. Indeed, a semester grade point average of 3.00 or higher is sufficiently distinctive at the University of Idaho College of Law to qualify the student for the "Dean's List" in that semester.

Prospective employers, and others who examine law school transcripts, should take into account the Idaho law faculty's commitment to academic rigor. If you have any questions regarding this subject, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Long', written in a cursive style.

Jerrold A. Long
Dean