**IN 1998, THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE CA COMMUNITY COLLEGES ADOPTED NEW REGULATIONS THAT ALLOW EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT IN CA TO DECIDE WHETHER PLUS/MINUS GRADING WILL BE USED.**

"Because the Regents of the University of California (UC) and the Trustees and administration of the California State University (CSU) respectively delegate to the faculty or rely upon the advice of the faculty regarding educational policies, the academic senates in both university systems establish grading policies. Currently all of the UC and CSU campuses have the option of establishing plus/minus grading and most use it."

**https://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/publications/PMGrade\_0\_0.pdf**

**The following grading scale was proposed for plus/minus grading:**

**(Due to transfer considerations, a grade of “C-“ is not included).**

**A+ = 4.0**

**A = 4.0**

**A-= 3.7**

**B+= 3.3**

**B = 3.0**

**B- = 2.7**

**C+= 2.3**

**C = 2.0**

**D+= 1.3**

**D = 1.0**

**D-= 0.7**

**F = 0.3**

**The single most important argument in favor of a system of final grades that includes plus and minus grades is the increased accuracy of the grade as a reflection of student performance.**

**In 1998, San Diego Mesa College Academic Senate sponsored a debate on plus minus grading with the following conclusions (most of which were also found by the Academic Senates of De Anza Foothill Colleges, and Monterey Peninsula College)**

**ARGUMENTS FOR +/- GRADING:**

* **IT PROVIDES A MORE ACCURATE SYSTEM OF GRADING**
* **IT PROVIDES MORE MOTIVATION FOR STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE**
* **IT WILL INCREASE STUDENT RETENTION BY ALLOWING THEM TO IMPROVE THEIR GRADE LATE IN THE SEMESTER**
* **IT ALIGNS MORE CLOSELY WITH GRADING SYSTEMS AT UC'S AND CSU'S.**

**ARGUMENTS AGAINST:**

* **THE SYSTEM IS INCONSISTENT SINCE THERE IS NO A+ OR C-**
* **IT IS UNFAIR BECAUSE IT IS PERMISSIVE, EVERY COLLEGE IS ABLE TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO IMPLEMENT IT OR NOT, AND EVERY INSTRUCTOR WITHIN THE COLLEGE CAN CHOOSE WHETHER TO USE IT THEMSELVES OR NOT.**
* **STUDENTS' GPA'S COULD BE DETRIMENTALLY AFFECTED, PUTTING THEM AT A DISADVANTAGE WHEN COMPARED WITH OTHERS WHO DON'T HAVE +/-**
* **MORE STUDENTS WOULD APPEAL THEIR GRADES, CREATING EXTRA HEADACHES FOR FACULTY.**
* **THE ADMINISTRATIVE COST TO IMPLEMENT THE CHANGE IS HIGH.**
* **IN SOME DISCIPLINES, GRADE VARIATIONS BETWEEN B AND B- ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO JUDGE.**
* **ONLY 11 OUT OF 120 CC'S USE +/- (AS OF 2006)**

**IN 2006, THE DE ANZA/FOOTHILL COLLEGES ADOPTED +/\_ GRADING, WITH THE PROVISO THAT INDIVIDUAL FACULTY HAVE THE CHOICE WHETHER TO USE IT OR NOT.**

**My brief survey found that De Anza/ Foothill Colleges, College of Marin, and Santa Barbara City College use the +/-, but San Francisco City College, and the following colleges in Southern California, including SMC, PCC, PIERCE, MT. SAC, RIO HONDO AND EL CAMINO CC, use whole grades only.**

**https://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/publications/PMGrade\_0\_0.pdf**