

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
Arbitrary and Capricious Grading Policy
May 9, 2013

The University of Maryland has a very strict policy on grading. Once a course grade has been assigned, the only possible grade appeal a student can initiate is an appeal on the basis of “arbitrary and capricious” grading.

The phrase, “arbitrary and capricious” means that the faculty member graded a student differently than other students in the class, graded the student on measures other than academic performance, or the professor deviated significantly from the syllabus in calculating the grade.

Simply not being satisfied with a final course grade is not arbitrary and capricious grading.

If a student suspects an incident of arbitrary and capricious grading, campus policies (link below) outline steps that students can take to address this concern.

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UNIVERSITY*OF*MARYLAND*PROCEDURES*FOR*REVIEW*OF*ALLEGED*A
RBITRARY*AND*CAPRICIOUS GRADING""UNDERGRADUATE*STUDENTS
Approved*by*the*President*December*4,*1990,*Amended*March*5,*2010,*
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<http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/docs/III-120B.pdf>