

# LOYOLA

LAW SCHOOL | LOS ANGELES

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## Loyola Law School Adjusts Grades to Comport with Legal Education Norms

**Los Angeles** – The Registrar’s Office at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles began modifying student grades this week in accordance with a grading-curve policy change approved by the school’s faculty in March. The new policy aligns Loyola’s grading curve with those at most other law schools.

Under the new policy, student grades will be increased by 0.33, or one letter-grade step, to match the curves at the vast majority of other law schools. For example, the previous mean first-year grade of a B will now be a B+, still lower than at many other schools.

Loyola’s faculty voted for the change because Loyola’s grading regime was among the strictest in the country. A campus study found that only one other ABA-accredited law school in California had such a low grade curve. Because Loyola is acting years after other law schools, the change applies retroactively back to the class of 2007.

The grade-curve change has no bearing on grading standards at Loyola. The change will not affect class ranking, which will still be based on students’ relative grade point averages. And there is still a mechanism in place to recognize the achievements of students doing A+ work.

“I asked the faculty to make this change for two reasons. First, grades provide information about our graduates and our academic program. The information conveyed by the old grading curve did not accurately convey the high quality of our graduates and academic programs,” said Dean Victor Gold. “Second, many other schools already have moved their curves higher for the express purpose of giving their graduates an advantage in this difficult job market. Without adjusting our curve, we send an inaccurate message to employers about the comparative quality of our graduates and we put our graduates at an unfair competitive disadvantage.”

### About Loyola Law School Los Angeles

Located in downtown Los Angeles—a legal, financial and media capital—Loyola Law School is home to prominent faculty, dedicated students and cutting-edge programs. Committed to legal ethics and the public interest, it has produced top attorneys for nearly a century. Loyola’s California Bar Exam passage rate was 85.3 percent in July 2009 -- more than six percentage points above the 79 percent pass rate for first-time takers from all ABA-accredited schools in California. Loyola was ranked 29<sup>th</sup> on the 2010 *Super Lawyers* U.S. Law School Rankings. The Princeton Review ranks Loyola fifth for “Best Classroom Experience” and sixth for “Best Environment for Minority Students.” *National Jurist* magazine ranks it second on its list of “Best Law Schools for Public Interest Law.” It is ranked ninth in the nation for minority enrollment by *U.S. News & World Report*. For more information, please see [www.lls.edu](http://www.lls.edu) or contact Brian Costello, deputy director of communications, at [brian.costello@lls.edu](mailto:brian.costello@lls.edu).

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