

There is no official system of equivalency between French and American degrees.

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To whom it may concern
FRENCH AND AMERICAN GRADING SYSTEMS AND DIPLOMAS

HOLDERS OF FRENCH DIPLOMAS SEEKING ADMISSION
equivalencies (unofficial)

- French *Baccalauréat* (secondary school diploma) = one year of university studies
- Diploma for first cycle (2 years) of French university (*DEUG, DEUST, DUT, DU*), or same level, = between two and two and on-half and three years of American university studies (four years equal the Bachelor of Arts/Science)
- *Licence* Diploma (three years French University diploma) = between four and five years of American university studies (four years equal the Bachelor of Arts/Science).
- *Maîtrise* Diploma (four-year, French university diploma, third cycle) = One or two years of graduate school
The number of years required for the masters varies according to the program and field of study, in general, one, two or three years after the Bachelors degree
- *Doctorat* = American Doctorate

EQUIVALENCY OF INDIVIDUAL GRADES BETWEEN THE TWO SYSTEMS

The French grading system is based on a total of 20 as opposed to 100 in the American system. It would be inaccurate, however, merely to multiply a French grade by a factor of five to find its American equivalent. 20/20 can almost be considered a fictitious grade, since it is very rarely given in most subjects. Depending on the subject and level, a 16/20 can be considered an excellent grade. In yet other circumstances, a 12/20 is considered an excellent grade. In elementary mathematics, a pupil may receive a 20/20 upon completing all the problems correctly, whereas in the humanities, for example, 12/20 for an essay is a very acceptable grade.

Grading also varies according to the level of schooling. Higher grades tend to be given in primary and secondary.

Grading is, of course, subjective and can vary greatly from one professor to the next.

20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A	A-	A-/B+
11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Finally, French Diplomas often include one of the four following *mentions* which have been translated here into English:

Très bien	Outstanding	Summa Cum Laude
Bien	Very good	Magna Cum Laude
Assez bien	Good	Cum Laude
Passable	Passing	

SOURCE: Abstract of a document issued by the Cultural Service of the Embassy of France in Washington: Studies in France, A comparison of the French and American grading systems and diplomas.

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