



Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

To Whom It May Concern:

New College of Florida (NCF) is a member of the State University System of Florida and is a nationally recognized honors college. New College offers a unique educational program that combines vibrant courses with experiential learning and a tutorial system patterned after New College of Oxford University. The program is designed for highly qualified, academically motivated students to learn in small class settings with opportunities for advanced independent research.

At NCF, students' progress is based on demonstrated competence and real mastery. At the end of a term, students receive written evaluations of their performance as "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory." Because New College is the Honors College of the State University System, established performance norms are high, and faculty have high expectations for student outcomes. As a result, student work designated "Satisfactory" in a course, tutorial, independent reading project, or independent study project is apt to exceed minimum standards and would likely be the equivalent of a B or an A in a traditional grading system. Only "Satisfactory" undertakings are listed on the transcript.

The narrative portion of the evaluation generally provides a description of the endeavor, an account of the student's work, and a performance assessment using various criteria appropriate to the undertaking. The evaluation discusses the student's intellectual development and points to areas he or she should address in future activities. The content of the narrative evaluation is a personal communication between the professor and student and is never considered part of the official transcript. However, a student can choose to provide copies of evaluations to prospective employers, graduate admissions committees, and the like. Outside evaluators, however, should note the context of evaluations as documents intended to guide students. Thus, an evaluation of even the strongest student performance may contain critical comments intended to help the student improve.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Provost.

Sincerely,

Suzanne E. Sherman, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Associate Professor of Chemistry