Proficiency FAQ

What is a proficiency assessment system?
A proficiency assessment system is means of measuring learning by using standards to determine a student's level of knowledge for the standard. Students meet proficiency by demonstrating their understanding and mastery of the skills and subject knowledge associated with each learning standard.

How do I meet proficiency?
Learning standards for each unit have been created using the Oregon Science Standards and ACT College Readiness Standards.. Unit standards will be presented throughout each unit as well as in each packet. At the end of each unit in this course, students must demonstrate they have met learning standards by receiving a 75% or better on the unit assessment.

Can I exceed proficiency?
Yes, students can exceed proficiency. Each unit standard is delineated into three levels: meets, exceeds, and mastery. To meet proficiency a student must achieve 75% or better on the unit assessment; a student can achieve exceeds by receiving a 90% and attain mastery with a 95% or higher on the unit assessments.

How is proficiency assessment different than a traditional A-F grading scale?
Proficiency assessment is different than A-F grading scale because it directly uses learning standards to measure student knowledge and learning. Students will meet, exceed, or master learning standards for each unit by completing learning assessments for each unit.

Wait, will I receive letter grades on my transcript?
Yes, final grades will be calculated using an A-C scale. Students meeting proficiency with a 74.5% or higher will receive a letter grade corresponding to the percent range as seen in the chart below. Students not meeting proficiency, 74.5% or below, will receive an incomplete for the course until proficiency is met. At the end of a semester an incomplete will be changed to an F letter grade.

Grade	Understanding of State Standards	%
A	Exceeds/Masters	100-89.5
B	Proficient	89-79.5
C	Proficient	79-74.5
Incomplete	Not proficient	≥ 74.5

Why is proficiency grading being used?
Proficiency is being used in this course because it provides an improved opportunity for students to demonstrate what they know and are able to do. Additionally, students take more responsibility for their own learning for standards and course overall. Finally, parents and guardians have a more clear understanding of their student's academic progress. This is made possible because each assessment is directly correlated to learning standards. Recent research has shown the value of proficiency based assessment;

Scappoose High School saw an improvement of over 30% within four years after beginning the program.

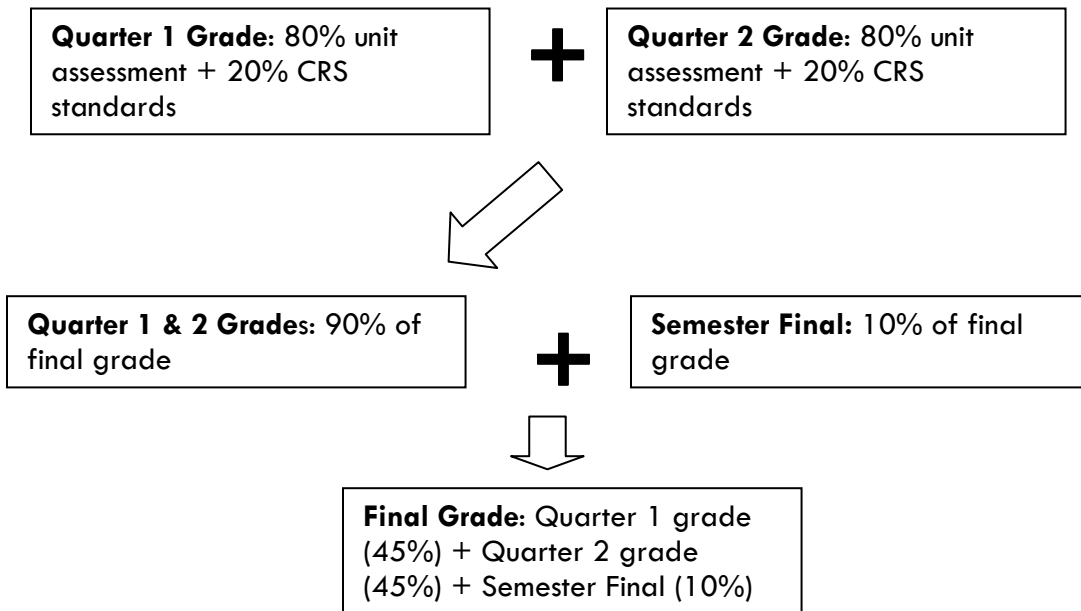**If I don't meet proficiency on the assessment, what happens?**
If proficiency is not met on the unit assessment on the first attempt, students will be provided two (2) additional opportunities to meet proficiency. For example, if the unit assessment is a test and proficiency is not met on the first attempt, the student will have the opportunity to retake a different form of the test two more times. Before doing so students will be required to complete test corrections, review with the teacher, or other means. If a student does not meet proficiency by the third attempt a meeting will be required with the teacher in order to arrange an alternative assessment. Proficiency is expected to be met within two weeks of the original assessment date or by the end of the quarter, whichever is less. The primary goal for the proficiency assessment models is for **all** students to meet proficiency of the learning standards.

How does proficiency grading work in this course?
As previously mentioned, student's final grades will receive an A-C or incomplete on their transcript. Grading for each semester will be conducted as follows:
- 80% of quarter grade determined from unit assessments
- 20% of quarter grade determined from career related standards (CRS): this will include all homework, laboratories, class work, etc.
- Each semester's final will serve as 10% of the final grade

So, here's how it would look:

Quarter 1 Grade: 80% unit assessment + 20% CRS standards	**+**	**Quarter 2 Grade:** 80% unit assessment + 20% CRS standards

Quarter 1 & 2 Grades: 90% of final grade	**+**	**Semester Final:** 10% of final grade

Final Grade: Quarter 1 grade (45%) + Quarter 2 grade (45%) + Semester Final (10%)

For further information on proficiency based assessment:
- http://www.principalspartnership.com/ProficiencyBasedAssessment.pdf