

1125-P1-2853 **Melissa Lindsey*** (melissa.lindsey@indwes.edu), Department of Mathematics, Indiana Wesleyan University, 4201 S. Washington St, Marion, IN 46953. *Specifications Grading in Abstract Algebra*.

Write correct and intelligible proofs. Do routine problems involving groups and rings. Define basic terminology and paraphrase major theorems. In a nutshell, these are the three learning outcomes for the Modern Abstract Algebra course at Indiana Wesleyan University. In a traditional grading scheme involving points where students can earn partial credit, it is entirely possible for a student to earn a passing grade in this course without mastering any of the three learning outcomes. In her book, *Specifications Grading*, Linda Nilson outlines an argument for restoring rigor, motivating students, and saving faculty time by doing away with partial credit. In lieu of points and partial credit, she encourages faculty to clearly identify for students what it means to succeed on an assignment and grading each assignment as either meeting the criteria (pass) or not meeting the criteria (fail). In this talk, we will discuss the details of implementing specifications grading in the abstract algebra course described above. (Received September 20, 2016)