

The Numismatic Diploma Course II

Grading U.S. Coins COURSE OVERVIEW



1.

Grading 101

This section examines the minting process, introduces the Sheldon Grading Scale, and explores the evolution of coin grading. Grading myths will also be discussed.

2.

Tools of the Trade

This section examines the proper way to handle your coins, the proper lighting for grading, the hardness of different metals, and the nuances between technical and market grading.

3.

Grading Categories

This section explores the key components of mint state grading, circulated grading, and proof grading. Topics include contact marks, strike, luster, eye appeal, wear, hairlines, and field.

4.

Applying Grading Skills

This section examines where and how to identify the key elements of grading, dependent on the coin being graded. Using six of the most commonly collected coins, this module will focus on how to identify high spots (wear areas) and focal points, how to use the *Official ANA Grading Guide* to support your analysis of a specific coin, and how to develop an overall grade.

5.

Hone Your Skills

This section gives you three different coins (each of a different series) to examine. Rather than guiding you step by step, it will be up to you to use the tools you have learned in this course to try and come up with a grade. Remember, it is okay if your number doesn't match ours. We will provide you with the official grade from the grading company, but we will also ask you to discuss your grade with others.