

INTERIM POLICY 26 GRADING AND STATUS POLICY

The Change

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What language has been changed to the previously posted policy?

- Policy posted as approved 11/15/2019 stated: "Section III A. Determination of Final Grades 1. At the completion of the work for a course, a letter grade (which may include +/-) will be determined by the instructor." That language has been replaced to read: *At the completion of the work for a course, a letter grade will be determined by the instructor using the grading scale set forth in Section III(B)(3) of this Policy, including the mandatory use of plus/minus grades to distinguish between higher and lower performance within a letter grade.*

Consistency

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Why was the language changed?

- Federal regulations require that an institution must establish a reasonable satisfactory academic progress policy for determining whether an otherwise eligible student is making satisfactory academic progress in his or her educational program. The Secretary considers the institution's policy to be reasonable if, among other things, it provides for **consistent application of standards to ALL students** within categories of students, e.g. full-time, part-time, undergraduate, and graduate students, and educational programs established by the institution.
- As the policy was interpreted fall 2020 semester, some faculty awarded +/- grades, but not all. The catalog and the policy indicate that the GPA is figured using +/- grades, yet all students did not have the opportunity to earn a grade that may have been a +/-.
- This is an inconsistent practice. It does not allow for **ALL** students to earn Satisfactory Academic Progress the same way.
- Accordingly, the Policy is being changed in order to clarify that the consistent application of the University's grading scale in all undergraduate and graduate classes **is required**.

Effective Term

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When should I change the grades assigned for my course?

- The policy will take effect upon signature of the President. All faculty are expected to have fully implemented the policy by the start of the Summer 2021 term.

Next Steps

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Must I resubmit my course to the UCC for approval of the change in course grading scale?

- The syllabus templates posted in the UCC Portal Pages under Faculty Senate have a table that reflects the +/- grading options. The grading policy does not prescribe the numerical values used to determine the course letter grades (including +/- grades). Those are determined by the course instructor. Suggestions for grading scale distribution using +/- grades available through UCC.
- Policy 2 lays out the syllabus elements required to undergo University Curriculum Committee review and **the grading schemes are not included in that policy**. If revising the grading scheme to align with Interim Policy 26 is the *only* change you are making to a syllabus, it **does not** require UCC approval.
- As long as Interim Policy 26 is in effect, faculty must submit **existing** syllabi to Division/Department Chairs each semester, to demonstrate compliance with the Interim Policy. Any newly proposed courses or course revisions submitted via Curriculog starting Summer Session 2021, must reflect grading consistent with Interim Policy 26.
- This Interim Policy applies to both Undergraduate and Graduate courses.