

**Committee on Educational Policy
Amendments to Perfect the New Regulations on Grading**

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

At the February 23, 2000, divisional meeting of the Academic Senate, Senators passed legislation changing UCSC's grading system to include mandatory grades. In the course of the discussion, the Committee on Educational Policy's original proposal was amended so as to change the definition of the P (Pass) grade from "work which would otherwise receive a grade of C or better" to "work which would otherwise receive a grade of C- or better." If this legislation, currently being voted on by mail ballot, is adopted, CEP proposes the following changes in the legislation both to correct the significant problems introduced by that amendment and to remedy the problem that the amendment was meant to address.

In brief, CEP proposes eliminating C- as a possible grade notation in the new grading system (1) to maintain the integrity of the Pass (P) grade; (2) to prevent significant discrepancies in the treatment of identical work depending on whether it receives a P or a C- grade; and (3) to clarify the distinction between satisfactory work and work that is technically passing but not satisfactory. CEP's amended legislation also emphasizes that C work must be work worthy of 2.0 grade points.

CEP's proposal takes into account the following information:

First, as determined by UC regulations, students must have a GPA of at least 2.0 to graduate. The grade of C in any course is assigned 2 grade points. In the new grading legislation, the grade of C- is assigned 1.7 grade points and therefore does not represent work of sufficient quality to meet the overall standard for graduation. Students can count course credits valued at below 2.0 among the 180 credits necessary for graduation on the condition that the GPA deficit be made up in other courses. In other words, the grades of C- and D are technically "passing" but not "satisfactory" in the sense that a student who received C- grades in all his courses could not graduate.

Second, with regard to regulations determining the significance of the grades P, C, C-, and D, UC campuses do not offer a consistent (or logical) model. For example, Berkeley, Davis, and San Diego define the Pass (P) as including C- work; Los Angeles, Irvine, Santa Barbara, and Riverside define P as work graded at C or better.

Eliminating C- as a possible grade notation accomplishes the following ends:

(1) Eliminating C- preserves the definition of the grade of P (Pass) as signifying work of C (2.0) quality or better. It prevents any erosion in the perception of the quality of P grades given at UCSC in the past. It prevents the lowering of an existing standard. And it makes clear the requirement that all P work is worthy of at least 2.0 grade points, the lowest number which work can receive and be deemed as meeting the standard satisfactory for graduation from UC.

(2) Eliminating C- removes the "Twin Paradox" created by the February 23 amendment. In the new grading legislation as it now stands, a student receiving a P and a student receiving a C- for work of identical quality would face different outcomes with regard to whether their work can satisfy major or general education requirements or can be repeated. Whereas the student who received the P would be able to use the course to satisfy major requirements or general education requirements and would not be able to retake the course to improve his performance, his twin who has done work of identical quality for a C- could not use the course to satisfy either major or general education requirements but would be able to take the course again. Eliminating C- solves this discrepancy.

(3) Eliminating C- accomplishes the goal of the February 23 amendment by removing the confusion inherent in the C- grade, which has a history at other campuses of causing misunderstandings and complaints. Given UC grade point values, the most significant line of demarcation in the grade point scale occurs between C and C-. C work receives a 2.0 which contributes to a GPA satisfactory for graduation. C- work receives a 1.7 which is below the satisfactory standard for graduation. It makes a great deal of sense to avoid making this dividing line fall within the range of C. Eliminating C- does just that.

In sum, CEP's proposed changes to the new grade regulations make it clear that C work by definition is work that is worthy of 2.0 grade points, work that is of satisfactory quality for graduation from UC, and work that is of sufficient quality to satisfy major requirements and general education requirements. Work below that standard will be graded D. CEP believes that drawing the line between C and D without an intervening C- will allow both faculty members and students to think more clearly about what does and does not constitute satisfactory work in a course as a whole.

Respectfully Submitted,

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

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Chapter 9. Grades, Evaluations, and Transmission of Records

Current Wording

Proposed Wording

9.1 General

A9.1.1 Grades A-F, shall be awarded for undergraduate students in the manner and with the meanings prescribed in SR 780, except that the grades A, B, and C may be modified by plus (+) or minus (-) suffixes. The grade of I shall be awarded as specified in SCR 9.1.6. The grade of IP shall be awarded as an interim mark in multi-term courses described in SCR 9.1.7. The grade of W denotes the formal withdrawal of the student from the course after the last day to drop a course and prior to the beginning of the last week of instruction.

9.1.2 A Pass/Not passed option is available to a student in good standing in the manner provided for by SR 782. A grade of Passed shall be awarded only for work which would otherwise receive a grade of C- or better. A department may require that any course or courses applied toward credit in a major be taken on a letter grade basis. The P/NP option must be exercised no later than the last day to add a course and may not be subsequently changed

9.1.1 Grades A-F, shall be awarded for undergraduate students in the manner and with the meanings prescribed in SR 780, except that the grades A, and B, and ~~C~~ may be modified by plus (+) or minus (-) suffixes and the grade of C may only be modified by a plus (+) suffix. The grade of I shall be awarded as specified in SCR 9.1.6. The grade of IP shall be awarded as an interim mark in multi-term courses described in SCR 9.1.7. The grade of W denotes the formal withdrawal of the student from the course after the last day to drop a course and prior to the beginning of the last week of instruction.

9.1.2 A Pass/Not passed option is available to a student in good standing in the manner provided for by SR 782. A grade of Passed shall be awarded only for work which would otherwise receive a grade of ~~C-~~ C (2.0) or better. A department may require that any course or courses applied toward credit in a major be taken on a letter grade basis. The P/NP option must be exercised no later than the last day to add a course and may not be subsequently changed.

Current Wording

Proposed Wording

9.1.3 All grades, except I and IP, are final when filed by an instructor in the end-of-term course report. However, the Registrar is authorized to change a final grade upon written request of an instructor, provided that a clerical or procedural error is the reason for the change. Grade changes (except for I and IP) must be submitted to the Registrar within one year from the close of the quarter for which the original grade was submitted. No change of grade may be made on the basis of reexamination, or with the exception of the I and IP grades, the completion of additional work.

9.1.3 No change.

9.1.4 Grade points per credit shall be assigned by the Registrar as follows: A - 4; B - 3; C - 2; D - 1; F, I, W, or IP - none. "Minus" grades shall be assigned three-tenths grade point less per credit than unaffixed grades, and "plus" grades (except A+) shall be assigned three-tenths grade point more per credit. The grade of A+ shall be assigned 4.0 grade points per credit, the same as for an unaffixed A, but when A+ is reported it represents extraordinary achievement.

9.1.4 No change

Current Wording

Proposed Wording

9.1.5 With the approval of the Committee on Educational Policy, course sponsoring agencies may offer courses as "P/NP only." The designation of courses as "P/NP only" shall be made by the Committee on Educational Policy during the spring term to have effect for all of the following academic year, beginning with the following fall term, and shall remain in effect until changed by request of the course sponsoring agency, with the approval of the Committee on Educational Policy. During the academic year, agencies may request the "P/NP only" designation for new courses to be offered for winter, spring, or summer terms.

9.1.5 No change.

9.1.6 The grade of I may be assigned only when a student's work is of passing quality but is incomplete. The student must make arrangements in advance with the instructor in charge of the course in order to receive an I. In order to replace the I with a passing grade and to receive credit, a student must petition by the deadline imposed by the Registrar and complete the work of the course by the end of the finals week of the next term, unless the instructor specifies an earlier date. If the instructor fails to submit a passing grade for any reason by the deadline for submitting grades in the next succeeding term after the I was awarded, the student receives an NP or F depending on the grading option selected. The deadline imposed herein shall not be extended. (However, see SCR 6.7.)

9.1.6 No change.

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>9.1.7 A grade in a single course extending over two or three terms of an academic year may be awarded at the end of the course. The grade shall then be recorded as applying to each of the terms of the course. A student satisfactorily completing only one or two terms of a course extending over two or three terms of an academic year shall be given grades for those terms. The grading option selected for the first term of a multiple term course applies to each subsequent term. [SCR 10.1.4]</p> <p>9.1.8 Students who receive a grade of C-, D or F may retake the course, subject to the following guidelines: Courses in which the student has received a letter grade may not be repeated on a P/NP basis. Credits shall not be awarded more than once for the same course, but the grade assigned each time must be permanently recorded on the student's transcript. Repetition of a course more than once requires approval of the student's college. (For computation of GPAs involving repeated courses, see SCR A9.4.1.) Courses originally taken on a P/NP basis but not passed may be repeated either on the same basis or for a letter grade.</p> <p>9.1.9 With the exception of this subsection, the regulations of this chapter do not apply to University Extension courses. University Extension courses shall be graded in accordance with SR 780 (including provisions with regard to grade points and units) and SR 810(A).</p>	<p>9.1.7 No change.</p> <p>9.1.8 Students who receive a grade of C-, D or F may retake the course, subject to the following guidelines: Courses in which the student has received a letter grade may not be repeated on a P/NP basis. Credits shall not be awarded more than once for the same course, but the grade assigned each time must be permanently recorded on the student's transcript. Repetition of a course more than once requires approval of the student's college. (For computation of GPAs involving repeated courses, see SCR A9.4.1.) Courses originally taken on a P/NP basis but not passed may be repeated either on the same basis or for a letter grade.</p> <p>9.1.9 No change.</p>

9.4 Transmission of Records

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>9.4.1 Transcripts and other records shall be issued by the Registrar only as requested by the student concerned. The documents to be sent out automatically on such a request shall include items 'A' through 'F' unless the student specifically requests that 'B, C, D' not be sent out.</p> <p>A. A record of all courses and grades, including a brief explanation of the grading and evaluation system and as full a subtitle as can be shown for each course taken at University of California, Santa Cruz. The explanation must state that for courses graded P/NP prior to Fall, 2001, only work satisfactorily completed (graded Pass) is recorded on the transcript.</p> <p>B. In chronological order, all course evaluations, excepting only evaluations judged by the designated Academic Senate member in each college in consultation with the instructor or, in the absence of the instructor, with the provost of the instructor's college, to be irresponsible or to be observations unrelated to course performance, such judgment to be communicated to the Registrar. [DLR 1998.2A]</p> <p>C. An overall assessment of the student's academic career at the University of California, Santa Cruz, prepared by the student's college; at the discretion of the college this assessment may be waived.</p> <p>D. An evaluation of the student's comprehensive examination and/or senior thesis, written by the department or committee sponsoring the student's major program. (EC 1 Aug 76, 12 May 97)</p>	<p>9.4.1 No change</p> <p>A. No change</p> <p>B. No change.</p> <p>C. No change.</p> <p>D. No change.</p>

(9.4.1 continued)

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>E. For undergraduates entering the University of California, Santa Cruz, between Fall 1997 and Spring, 2001 who have received a letter grade for 2/3 or more of the credits attempted at the University of California, Santa Cruz, prior to the issue date of the transcript, a Grade Point Average, computed only from the courses taken for a letter grade. Grade points per credit shall be assigned as specified in SCR 9.1.4. The grades W and I shall be disregarded in the GPA computation--credits are not counted and grade points are not assigned. If a student has taken courses more than once due to receipt of a C-, D or F, for the first 15 credits of repeated work, only the last grade recorded shall be computed in the student's GPA. If the 15 credit limit is exceeded, the GPA shall be based on all additional letter grades assigned and credits attempted.</p>	<p>E. For undergraduates entering the University of California, Santa Cruz, between Fall 1997 and Spring, 2001 who have received a letter grade for 2/3 or more of the credits attempted at the University of California, Santa Cruz, prior to the issue date of the transcript, a Grade Point Average, computed only from the courses taken for a letter grade. Grade points per credit shall be assigned as specified in SCR 9.1.4. The grades W and I shall be disregarded in the GPA computation--credits are not counted and grade points are not assigned. If a student has taken courses more than once due to receipt of a C-, D or F, for the first 15 credits of repeated work, only the last grade recorded shall be computed in the student's GPA. If the 15 credit limit is exceeded, the GPA shall be based on all additional letter grades assigned and credits attempted.</p>
<p>F. For undergraduates entering the University of California, Santa Cruz, Fall 2001 or later, a Grade Point Average, computed only from the courses taken for a letter grade. A term and cumulative GPA will be computed and displayed for UCSC courses. Grade points per credit shall be assigned as specified in SCR 9.1.4. The grades W and I shall be disregarded in the GPA computation--credits are not counted and grade points are not assigned. If a student has taken courses more than once due to receipt of a C-, D or F, for the first 15 credits of repeated work, only the last grade recorded shall be computed in the student's GPA. If the 15 credit limit is exceeded, the GPA shall be based on all additional letter grades assigned and credits attempted.</p>	<p>F. For undergraduates entering the University of California, Santa Cruz, Fall 2001 or later, a Grade Point Average, computed only from the courses taken for a letter grade. A term and cumulative GPA will be computed and displayed for UCSC courses. Grade points per credit shall be assigned as specified in SCR 9.1.4. The grades W and I shall be disregarded in the GPA computation--credits are not counted and grade points are not assigned. If a student has taken courses more than once due to receipt of a C-, D or F, for the first 15 credits of repeated work, only the last grade recorded shall be computed in the student's GPA. If the 15 credit limit is exceeded, the GPA shall be based on all additional letter grades assigned and credits attempted.</p>

10.1 Number of Courses Required

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>A10.1.1 Passing 180 credit hours and prior certification of satisfaction of: (a) the major requirements by the agency supervising the major program, (b) the college requirements by the appropriate college, and (c) the University of California and General Education requirements by the Registrar are required for graduation. Certain major programs or areas of study may require the completion of more than 180 credit hours. For undergraduates entering the University of California, Santa Cruz, Fall 2001 or later, no more than 25% of the UCSC credits applied toward graduation may be graded on a Pass/No Pass basis. This includes any credits completed in the Education Abroad Program or on another University of California campus in an intercampus exchange program.</p>	<p>A10.1.1 No change.</p>
<p>10.1.2 A grade point average of 2.0 or greater in all classes attempted for a letter grade, excluding those for which the student is assigned the grade W. If a student has taken courses more than once due to receipt of a C-, D or F, for the first 15 credits of repeated work, only the last grade recorded shall be computed in the student's GPA. If the 15 credit limit is exceeded, the GPA will be based on all additional letter grades assigned and credits attempted.</p>	<p>10.1.2 A grade point average of 2.0 or greater in all classes attempted for a letter grade, excluding those for which the student is assigned the grade W. If a student has taken courses more than once due to receipt of a C-, D or F, for the first 15 credits of repeated work, only the last grade recorded shall be computed in the student's GPA. If the 15 credit limit is exceeded, the GPA will be based on all additional letter grades assigned and credits attempted.</p>

10.2.2 General Education Requirements

Current Wording

Proposed Wording

10.2.2.1 Students who enter the University of California, Santa Cruz, as candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, Science, or Music either: (1) in fall quarter 1986 or thereafter, or (2) between fall quarter 1984 and spring quarter 1986 with fewer than 45 quarter units of transfer credit, are required to fulfill the following campus general education requirements. The courses used to satisfy these requirements must be chosen from the lists of approved courses (SCR 10.2.2.6). Only course work awarded the grade of P, C or better may be used to satisfy these requirements.

10.2.2.1 Students who enter the University of California, Santa Cruz, as candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, Science, or Music either: (1) in fall quarter 1986 or thereafter, or (2) between fall quarter 1984 and spring quarter 1986 with fewer than 45 quarter units of transfer credit, are required to fulfill the following campus general education requirements. The courses used to satisfy these requirements must be chosen from the lists of approved courses (SCR 10.2.2.6). Only course work awarded the grade of P, C **(2.0)** or better may be used to satisfy these requirements.

10.4.7 Passing Work in Major.

Current Wording

Proposed Wording

Students must complete all requirements for the major with grade P, C or better.

Students must complete all requirements for the major with grade P, C **(2.0)** or better.