

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

Handbook Revision, NSHE Grading Policy

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Board policy defines the grades permissible for use by all NSHE institutions (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 37*). Within that policy, Satisfactory “S” and Unsatisfactory “U” grades are provided. Credit received in courses graded on the “S/U” option count toward graduation yet are not calculated in the grade point average. Current grading policy prescribes what letter grade is required for an ‘S’ grade to be applied (“C” or better for undergraduates; “B” or better for graduate students). The current provision is not consistent with the predominate grading practice whereby a grade of “D-” or better may meet a degree requirement.

Based on the Chancellor’s discussions with the Council of Presidents, staff recommend revising Board policy to provide that institutions may determine the minimum grade required for an “S” to be applied. Removing the prescribed grade restriction for an “S” grade (“C” or better for undergraduates; “B” or better for graduate students) will allow institutions to define and apply a satisfactory grade for students in accordance with their existing provisions to earn credit for degree requirements (e.g. “D-” or better, or as otherwise appropriate).

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 37* to remove the prescribed minimum letter grade for an “S” grade to be applied, allowing the institutions to consistently apply degree requirements as appropriate and a technical correction removing reference that institutions may determine the timeline for assigning Ws, which is addressed separately in Title 4, Chapter 16.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This policy revision is being proposed to bring the Board’s “S/U” grading policy into alignment with institutional degree requirements.

CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- Success (Increase student success)
- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Since this policy revision would bring the Board’s “S/U” grading policy into alignment with institutional degree requirements, students will have access to more grading options to address their individual circumstances.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Removal of the current prescribed grade requirement to apply a “S” grade allows institutions to define and apply a satisfactory grade for students in accordance with their existing provisions to earn credit for degree requirements.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- None have been presented.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

Leave the policy as it is currently written, which is not consistent with the predominate grading practice whereby a grade of “D-” or better may meet a degree requirement.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR’S OFFICE:

The Chancellor’s Office supports these recommendations.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: ***Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 37***
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X _____

Explain:

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 37
NSHE Grading Policy

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 37. NSHE Grading Policy

The following grading policies apply to all NSHE campuses, in addition to further specific requirements, which may appear elsewhere in this Chapter.

Campuses will be restricted to the use of the following grades:

GRADES		GRADE POINT VALUE
A	Superior	4.0
A-		3.7
B+		3.3
B	Above Average	3.0
B-		2.7
C+		2.3
C	Average	2.0
C-		1.7
D+		1.3
D	Below Average	1.0
D-		0.7
F	Failure	0.00
H	Honors (for Medical School only)	n/a
HP	High Pass (for Medical School only)	n/a
P	Pass	n/a
S	Satisfactory [(undergraduate courses: C or above graduate courses: B or above)]	n/a
U	Unsatisfactory [(undergraduate courses: D or below graduate courses: C or below)]	n/a
I	Incomplete	n/a
X	Continuing course (research projects or courses extending beyond one semester such as a dissertation)	
AD	Audit	n/a
W	Withdrawal	n/a
NR	Not Reported- Assigned by registrar	
	Pending faculty submission of final grade	n/a
R	Replaced – individual course grade replaced under academic forgiveness (will not calculate into GPA)	n/a
AR	Academic Renewal - all course grades within a n/a term removed according to institutional academic renewal policy (will not calculate into GPA)	

1. The "plus" and "minus" is a part of the grading scale of each institution. It is up to the individual faculty member to exercise this option.

2. An F grade shall be a part of the grading scale for each institution. It is up to the individual faculty member to exercise this option. Institutions may utilize FN grade to denote an F grade for non-attendance. An F grade will appear on the student's transcript.
3. Campuses may retain institutional practices related to forgiveness or academic renewal policies in which, under certain circumstances, students may repeat failed courses or disregard course work.
4. All withdrawals indicate that the student did not complete the course. [~~Each institution determines the timeline for assigning the W.~~]
5. The course syllabus shall contain a clear explanation of the grading scale to be used by the faculty member. Student may not appeal the format an instructor uses.
6. Courses that a student is currently enrolled in but have not completed will be denoted "in progress" or IP pending on completion of the course or end of the term in the student information system.