

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER  
**HANDBOOK REVISION: NSHE Grading Policy**

**BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

The iNtegrate project is requiring a re-examination of system policies as the project ties together institutions and their data. Board policy defines the grades permissible for use by all NSHE institutions (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 39*). Currently, a grade of X is intended to designate courses that are “In Progress” and applies to research projects or courses extending beyond one semester. IP is also being used to designate a course in which the student is enrolled but is not completed and will be used as a placeholder in Peoplesoft for a similar purpose. Confusion has resulted during Peoplesoft setup and the use of X or IP to designate courses in progress needs to be clarified. Staff recommends revising Board policy to provide that institutions may denote a course as “in progress” or IP pending completion of the course and determination of a final course grade. In addition, R (replaced) and AR (academic renewal) are being included to designate grades replaced or removed according to academic forgiveness and renewal policies.

**SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

Amend Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 39 to provide that courses in which a student is currently enrolled in but have not completed may be denoted “in progress” or IP pending completion of the course and determination of a final course grade. Course grades that have been replaced or removed according to academic forgiveness and renewal policies will be designated with a R or AR. (See attached Policy Proposal.)

**IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

The implementation of the Peoplesoft application will require a number of changes to Board policy to accommodate functionality and bring consistency at all NSHE institutions. As the campuses go forward with setting up values to be used in Peoplesoft they will need to identify and clarify practices in an integrated system.

**BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

The proposed policy revision will provide the institutions with the flexibility necessary to distinguish between courses that are in progress (or pending completion) and those that extend beyond one semester. Further, it aligns Board policy will current practices at some institutions and will make it uniform across the system.

**POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

None have been presented.

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

Do not clarify the use of IP as a placeholder. Do not define the use of R or AR to designate courses that have been replaced or removed according to academic replacement and renewal policies.

**COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #\_\_\_\_ Chapter #\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 39*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_
- Other:\_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_  
Explain:\_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 39**  
**NSHE Grading Policy**

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

**Section 39. 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 ( <i>for Medical School only</i> )	n/a
HP	High Pass ( <i>for Medical School only</i> )	n/a
P	Pass	n/a
S	Satisfactory ( <i>undergraduate courses: C or above graduate courses: B or above</i> )	n/a
U	Unsatisfactory ( <i>undergraduate courses: D or below graduate courses: C or below</i> )	n/a
I	Incomplete	n/a
X	[ <del>In Progress</del> ] <b><i>Continuing course</i></b> ( <i>research projects or courses extending beyond one semester such as a dissertation</i> )	n/a
AD	Audit	n/a
W	Withdrawal	n/a
NR	Not Reported- Assigned by registrar pending faculty submission of final grade	n/a
<b>R</b>	<b><i>Replaced –individual course grade replaced under academic forgiveness (will not calculate into GPA)</i></b>	<b><i>n/a</i></b>
<b>AR</b>	<b><i>Academic Renewal –all course grades within a term removed according to institutional academic renewal policy (will not calculate into GPA)</i></b>	<b><i>n/a</i></b>

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.

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.

3. All withdrawals indicate that the student did not complete the course. Each institution determines the timeline for assigning the W.
4. The course syllabus shall contain a clear explanation of the grading scale to be used by the faculty member. Students may not appeal the format an instructor chooses.
5. ***Courses that a student is currently enrolled in but have not completed will be denoted "in progress" or IP pending completion of the course or end of the term in the student information system.***

[These recommendations become effective Fall 1993.]