


MEMORANDUM

TO: Kenneth Struckmeyer, Executive Secretary, Faculty Senate

FROM: Howard D. Grimes, Ph.D. 
Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School

DATE: February 27, 2012

SUBJECT: Proposal to revise Rule 90, Grades and Grade Points; Rule 100, Grade Point System; and Rule 102, Student's Scholastic Average

The Graduate School is revising its Graduate School Policies and Procedures Manual. One aspect of this revision, the creation of a "U" (unsatisfactory) grade for 700, 702, and 800 credits, affects Rule 90, Grades and Grade Points; Rule 100, Grade Point System; and Rule 102, Student's Scholastic Average. The proposed change noted below accurately reflects the recently submitted and approved changes to grade requirements for 700, 702, and 800 level credits for graduate students. A copy of the revised graduate policy is attached. The following shows the revision to the rules, and is in accordance with the approved change to the policy. This revised policy was reviewed and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee on February 14, 2012.

Attachment: Change to Graduate Policy

cc: Julia Pomerenk, Registrar
Becky Bitter, Sr. Assistant Registrar

GRADES AND GRADE POINTS

90. GRADES AND GRADE POINTS

Washington State University uses letter grades and the four (4) point maximum grading scale. The grade A is the highest possible grade, and grades below D are considered failing. Plus (+) or minus (-) symbols are used to indicate grades that fall above or below the letter grades, but grades of A+ and D- are not used. For purposes of calculating grade points and averages, the plus (+) is equal to .3 and minus (-) equals .7 (e.g., a grade B+ is equivalent to 3.3 and A- is 3.7). A student's work is normally rated in accordance with the following definitions:

90a. **A.** Student work demonstrates consistently excellent scholastic performance; thorough comprehension; ability to correlate the material with other ideas, to communicate and to deal effectively with course concepts and new material; reliability in attendance and attention to assignments.

90b. **B.** Student work demonstrates superior scholastic performance overall, reliability in attendance, and attention to assignments; may demonstrate excellence but be less consistent than the work of an A student.

90c. **C.** Student work demonstrates satisfactory performance overall, as well as reliability in attendance, and attention to assignments.

90d. **D.** Student work demonstrates minimal, barely passing performance overall; limited knowledge of subject matter.

90e. **F.** Student work demonstrates unsatisfactory performance and comprehension or unfulfilled requirements. The grade is failing.

90f. **S.** (Satisfactory.) Grade given upon satisfactory completion of courses numbered 499, 600, 700, 702, 800, special examinations (Rule 15) and other courses duly authorized for S, F grading by the Faculty Senate. (Courses approved for S, F grading are footnoted in the Schedules of Classes.) A, S, or F grades only are used to report physical education activity grades. S, M (marginally satisfactory), F grades only are used to report grades for designated courses within the College of Veterinary Medicine. Courses approved for S, F grading may also be graded S at midsemester indicating satisfactory progress.

90g. **P.** (Passing.) A satisfactory grade for a course taken under the pass, fail Grading Option. Instructors will turn in regular letter grades for all students enrolled in courses under the pass, fail option but grades will appear on the student's permanent record as P (Passing) or F (Failure).

90h. **I.** (Incomplete.) The term is used to indicate that a grade has been deferred. It is for students

who for reasons beyond their control are unable to complete their work on time. All outstanding incomplete work (including grades of I, X, and blank/no grade) must be completed and posted to the official transcript prior to the conferral of the undergraduate or professional degree. It is strongly recommended that students who are granted an Incomplete limit their total number of credits to 18 credits (including credits for the Incomplete course and any new courses) during the semester when they are finishing an Incomplete. Undergraduate or graduate students who receive an I grade in an undergraduate course (100-499) have up to the end of the ensuing year to complete the course, unless a shorter interval is specified by the instructor. If the incomplete is not made up during the specified time or the student repeats the course, the I is changed to an F. (See Rule 34.) Faculty are required to submit an Incomplete Grade Report (IGR) to the departmental office with every I given. The IGR must specify conditions and requirements for completing the incomplete, as well as any time limitations less than one year.

90i. **W.** This is the term to be used if the student has filed, in the Registrar's Office, official notice of a withdrawal from the course prior to the end of the 9th week, or withdrew passing in accordance with Rule 69, or withdrew from the university in accordance with Rule 70.

90j. **X.** Denotes continuing progress toward completion of special problems, research, thesis, doctoral dissertation (i.e., 499, 600, 700, 702, 800), or flexible enrollment courses; X grades are converted to S or to a letter grade upon satisfactory completion. All outstanding incomplete work (including grades of I, X, and blank/no grade) must be completed and posted to the official transcript prior to the conferral of the undergraduate or professional degree. An X grade may also be used when no final grade is reported due to instructor's illness or absence.

90k. **U.** (Unsatisfactory.) Student work demonstrates unsatisfactory performance, failed examination, or unfulfilled requirements in courses numbered 700, 702, and 800.

100. GRADE POINT SYSTEM

A provides 4.0 grade points per credit hour.

A- provides 3.7 grade points per credit hour.

B+ provides 3.3 grade points per credit hour.

B provides 3.0 grade points per credit hour.

B- provides 2.7 grade points per credit hour.

C+ provides 2.3 grade points per credit hour.

C provides 2.0 grade points per credit hour.

C- provides 1.7 grade points per credit hour.

D+ provides 1.3 grade points per credit hour.

D provides 1.0 grade points per credit hour.

F provides no credit or grade points. (Credits attempted are calculated in gpa).

P credit given—grade points not calculated.

S credit given—grade points not calculated.

M credit given—grade points not calculated.

I provides no credit or grade points.

W provides no credit or grade points.

X provides no credit or grade points.

U provides no credit or grade points.

102. STUDENT'S SCHOLASTIC AVERAGE

A student's scholastic average is determined by adding the grade points earned in all WSU course work and dividing by the total number of hours in which the student has been enrolled at WSU. I, W, S, P, ~~and X~~, and U grades are disregarded.