



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

SEC. II-UNDERGRADUATE: EVALUATION 1.0

UNDERGRADUATE GRADES AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE

UNIT POLICY – ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The plus-minus grading system, prevalent at many universities, offers several advantages to faculty and students such as:

- 1.1 Students who perform at the equivalent of a B+ receive 3.0 grade points in a non plus-minus grading system. The B+ grade counts as 3.3 grade points with a plus-minus grading system.
- 1.2 The plus-minus grading system provides the opportunity for an instructor to more fairly assign grades for large classes. A non plus-minus grading system typically permits the awarding of 5 distinct grades (A to F). Alternately, a plus-minus grading system permits the awarding of 11 or more distinct grades (A to F).
- 1.3 The additional levels of grading can provide incentives for students to continue to work for higher grades. For example, a student who knows that it is not possible to earn a B in a non plus-minus grading system, may settle for a C and continue to perform at the minimum level to earn the C. Alternately, a student in the same situation with a plus-minus grading system may be encouraged to continue working hard in an effort to earn a C+ or a B- instead.

2.0 GRADING

2.1 Instructor as defined herein includes members of the faculty, graduate teaching assistant, or other instructor. Evaluation of a student's performance in a particular course or section is the prerogative of the instructor responsible for that course or section. No grade assigned to a student in a particular course or section may be changed without the consent of the instructor responsible for that course or section.

2.2 Each instructor who assigns grades has the responsibility to implement grading procedures that are fair and equitable, and to provide a reasonable evaluation of the student's performance in the course.

2.3 Each instructor who is assigned to be responsible for a course or section, has a responsibility to inform students at the beginning of the semester, summer session, etc. of the means to be used to determine grades for that course or section. This information should be included in the instructor's syllabus for the course.

3.0 GRADE POINT AVERAGE

3.1 The Grade Point Average (GPA) for a semester, summer session, etc. will be computed by dividing the total number of quality points earned by the number of credit hours attempted (for which regular grades are received). The grade point average will be calculated to three decimal points.

3.2. The following grade points are to be used in the calculation of grade point averages:

Grade	Grade Points
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D-	1.0
F	0.0

3.3 The following grades may be given for non-letter grade courses:

Grade	Description
I	Incomplete
CE	Credit by Examination
CR	Advance Placement or Transfer
S	Satisfactory
U	Unsatisfactory
W	Withdrawal
AU	Satisfactory Audit
NC	Unsatisfactory Audit

4.0 ASSIGNING GRADES AND GRADE CHANGES

4.1 A student's performance in a course must be evaluated resulting in a course grade by the instructor of record assigned to the course. The only exception is when the instructor is not available due to illness or termination from employment.

4.2 A request for a change of grade must be initiated by the instructor of record assigned to the particular course. The request must be approved by the instructor's department chair and dean. The only exception to an instructor's involvement in seeking a change of grade is when a grade appeal results in a change of grade. In this event, the department chair or dean shall request the change of grade.

4.3 The registrar will email the instructor and department chair (or dean if there is no department chair) to confirm that the change of grade originated from the instructor who signed the change of grade form.

4.4 Each instructor who assigns grades has the responsibility to implement grading procedures that are fair and equitable, and to provide a reasonable evaluation of the student's performance in the course. The instructor is expected to inform all students at the beginning of the semester of the means to be used to determine grades in each course or section. This information must be included in the instructor's course syllabus.

Effective date of this new policy: Sec. 4.0 and its subparts are effective September 27, 2013; the remainder of the policy is effective August 15, 2014

First approved: September 23, 2013

Revised:

Approved by the Chancellor