

## GRADING

### I. Policy Section

7.0 Instructional Materials and Methods

### II. Policy Subsection

7.10 Grading Procedures

### III. Policy Statement

Grand Rapids Community College's grading system is a letter and numerical based system that includes both plus (+) and minus (-) grades. Each letter grade corresponds to honor points which are used to calculate a student's semester and cumulative grade point average (GPA). A student's grades and GPA are recorded on the student's academic transcript. Clock hour programs use a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade scale.

Faculty members are responsible for:

- outlining their grade calculation in each course syllabus
- assigning grades to each student enrolled in a course
- keeping grade records as required under the faculty collective bargaining agreement
- maintaining confidentiality of students' grades
- submitting final grades by the deadline indicated in the Academic Calendar
- reporting students that do not attend in accordance with College Policy 8.8 to initiate an administrative withdrawal

Students have the right to:

- audit a course for no credit
- withdraw from a course prior to the published withdrawal deadline for the class
- grieve a final grade in accordance with the Grade Appeal Process

### IV. Reason for Policy

Educational records of students, primarily their class enrollment and performance indicate their competency of knowledge and skills required for their academic credential.

### V. Entities Affected by This Policy

Students, Faculty and Staff

### VI. Who Should Read This Policy

All College Staff

VII. Related Documents

GRCC Catalog  
Academic Governing Council Issue Papers

VIII. Contacts

Student  
Records  
Deans  
Provost

IX. Definitions

Grades & Honor Values

*GRADE HONOR POINT VALUE GRADE HONOR POINT VALUE*

A 4.00

A- 3.67

B+ 3.33

B 3.00

B- 2.67

C+ 2.33

C 2.00

C- 1.67

D+ 1.33

D 1.00

D- 0.67

E 0.00

I-

Incomplet

e V-Audit

W-Student Initiated Drop

DR-Administrative Withdrawal

X. Procedures

Unofficial Withdrawal: An unofficial withdrawal is a withdrawal initiated by an administrator on the behalf of the student.

Official Withdrawal: An official withdrawal is a withdrawal initiated by a student.

Audit (V Grade): When a student takes a course for their own personal exploration or enjoyment without receiving earned credit.

Credit: Earned credits gained by completing courses to obtain a credential.

Not for Credit: A measurement of academic progress through the completion of a Job Training Program.

Satisfactory: Making satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of a program.

Unsatisfactory: Not maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of a program.

## XI. Procedures

### A. Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation

The number of credit hours granted for a grade of “D-” or higher is indicated in the description for each course. Each hour of credit is valued in honor points according to the grade received. I, W, and DR grades are not included in the grade point average calculations. E grades are worth no credit.

To determine grade point average, multiply the number of honor points of each grade received by the number of hours of credit for that course, then divide the total number of honor points by the total number of credit hours earned.

Students are advised that colleges and universities may compute grade point averages differently. Upon transfer to another institution, the student’s grade point average might be recomputed and thus be different from the GRCC grade point average.

Students are reminded that a 2.0 grade point average is required for graduation from Grand Rapids Community College.

This definition covers credit courses, not clock hour or not for credit courses.

### B. Audit (V Grade)

Students may choose to receive a grade of “audit” (V) for classes at the time of enrollment. Students may audit a class for enjoyment, for personal exploration, for gaining insight into a new subject, or for other reasons. Audit status does not count toward full-time enrollment and students will not receive credit. The course will appear on the student’s transcript.

Students pay full tuition for classes they audit and are expected to participate in all class activities. They are not compelled to take tests or examinations or to write term papers, but they may do so voluntarily.

If students wish to change their enrollment to audit, students must declare their audit status to their instructors during the first 25% of the class. Credit status may not be changed to audit status after this time.

### C. Withdrawal Process (W, DR)

Students may withdraw from a course and receive a W grade until the 70% date of course completion (as noted on the class calendar of drop dates)

through the Online Center. After the 70% date, students may not initiate a course withdrawal or receive a W grade and the final course grade (i.g: A, B, C, D, or E) will be assigned based upon all graded and missed assignments. Instructors may not assign a W grade.

A DR may be assigned by the Registrar's office if a student ceases to attend a class in accordance with the Attendance Policy, or, other instances as determined by the Registrar's office where an administrative withdrawal is required. During the last 30% of a course, students who have a documented extenuating circumstance such as an illness, or injury, or the illness, injury or death of a significant other or family member can apply for a Hardship Withdrawal through the Office of the Associate Dean of Student Success and Retention. There is no impact on the student's GPA for receiving a W or DR grade in the Grand Rapids Community College grading system; however, other institutions may have different policies governing the impact of W or DR grades on transfer student acceptance and/or their calculated GPA. In addition, W or DR grades may have a negative impact on financial aid eligibility.

#### D. Incomplete Grades (I Grade)

An incomplete (I) grade can be temporarily assigned in the event of extenuating circumstances such as illness, injury, birth of a child, death of a family member, jury duty or other situations that are beyond the control of the student and prevent completion of the course requirements during the semester. The following requirements must be met in order to receive an incomplete (I) grade:

1. The coursework up to the time of the absence has been satisfactory and in the instructor's judgment, the student can complete the required work without repeating the course or attending any class sessions in subsequent semesters.
2. Approximately 90% of the course time has elapsed or coursework has been completed as determined by the instructor.
3. The incomplete form is available in the Registrar's Office and indicates the actions the student will take to finish the course, when those actions will take place (not to exceed one year), and the grade the instructor will submit (A, B, C, D, or E) should the work remain incomplete after the allotted time. Both the student and instructor will make every effort to sign the form and submit it to the Office of Student Records; a copy will be provided to the student and the instructor's Department Head/Program Director.

Once the coursework is completed or the allotted time lapsed, the instructor will submit an official grade change within 10 business days. If the course work is not completed and/or the instructor does not submit an official grade change, the incomplete (I) grade will default to a grade of "E" one year from the end date of the class. In the event of further unforeseen, extreme or unusual circumstances, a written appeal for an extension can be made to the Associate Dean of Hiring and Evaluation of the School where the course resides.

#### E. Repeated Coursework

A repeated course is a course that a student enrolls in and attempts more than once. Each attempt is recorded on a student's transcript. For courses that may only be taken once for credit the attempt with the highest grade will be used when calculating GPA and earned credits on a student's academic transcript. A student may attempt a course up to three times, or two additional attempts after the first. If a student has not successfully completed a course within three attempts they are required to meet with an advisor if they wish to register for a fourth attempt at the course.

Courses that permit additional repeats for credit are identified within the curriculum database. Programs with specific admission requirements may have additional restrictions on repeated coursework.

Students using financial aid should also view the [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for Credit Hour Students](#) to understand the impact of repeated coursework on future financial aid eligibility.

#### F. Grade Reports

Grade reports are available to the student at the end of each semester and at the end of the Summer session and are accessible through the GRCC website.

#### G. Grade Grievance Process

This process is to be used only for disputes regarding final grades. A student who perceives an individual grade received during a course to be unfair must resolve the matter informally with his or her instructor. Only when an individual grade has impacted a student's final grade, or when a student perceives a final grade to be otherwise unfair, may the student invoke the formal grievance process noted below.

##### Informal Process

*Step 1:* The student shall contact the instructor within 15 school days\*\* after the posting of a perceived unfair final grade to try to resolve the matter informally.

*\*\*School days are Mondays through Fridays, while classes are in session.*

*Step 2:* If the grade dispute is not resolved at Step 1, the student has 5 school days to contact the appropriate Department Head or Program Director to try to reach a resolution that is mutually agreeable to the student and instructor. A

written description of the grievance may be requested by the Department

Head or Program Director. The student must provide documentation that an attempt to contact the course instructor was made within 15 days.

If the grievance involves a Program Director or Department Head, the student has the option of initiating the formal process directly with the Associate Dean.

#### Formal Process

*Step 3:* If the issue is not resolved at Step 2, the student has 5 school days\*\* to initiate the Formal Grade Grievance Process by completing a Grade Appeal Form and delivering it to the Associate Dean of the academic department responsible for the course.

Grade Appeal Forms are available in the School Deans offices.

The appropriate Associate Dean has 15 school days\*\* from receipt of the Grade Appeal Form to discuss the situation with the student and instructor, and, if necessary, Department Head/Program Director, and make a written decision to:

1. deny the request for a change of grade, or
2. move forward with the Formal Grade Grievance Process by convening the Academic Governing Council (AGC) Grade Appeal Hearing Committee.

The Associate Dean may deny a request for a change of grade and decline to refer the grievance to the AGC Grade Appeal Hearing Committee in the following instances:

1. When the instructor has followed the guidelines set forth in his or her syllabus.
2. When the instructor has followed College policies and procedures that would impact the student's grade.
3. When the student provides no evidence that he or she was treated in a partial or otherwise unfair manner.
4. When the student provides no evidence that a grade was miscalculated.
5. Other cases may exist in which an Associate Dean may deny a grade change request.

Written notification of the Associate Dean's decision and rationale will be sent to the student as well as to the course instructor, and appropriate Department Head/Program Director.

The Associate Dean's decision at this stage is final and binding. However, cases in which a student's final grade results in expulsion from a program progress from the Associate Dean to the AGC Grade Appeal Hearing Committee, if the student so requests and if the student has followed all the steps of the Informal and Formal Process.\*

*Step 4:* If the Associate Dean's decision is to convene the AGC Grade Appeal Hearing Committee, its Chair shall do so within 10 school days.

The Grade Appeal Hearing Committee shall be a standing committee of the Academic Governing Council. The Committee shall be composed of 5 members and shall include 3 faculty members, 1 academic administrator, and 1 student.

The Chair of the Hearing Committee shall be an appointed faculty member. The student shall be a student of good standing.

XII. Forms

Incomplete Grade Form (Obtained from Student Records)  
Grade Appeal Form (Obtained from the School Deans offices)

XIII. Effective Date

Fall 2024

XIV. Policy History

Adopted -1991

Revised & Adopted: section 7.0 subsection 7.3 (Grading, Key to Transcript & Academic Grievance Produced Student) - December, 2006

Revised - December, 2007

Reviewed/Revised 2012-2013

Reviewed/Revised 2013-2014 to clarify the "I" and 70% limit for students to drop

Reviewed/Revised by AGC on 10/10/17

Reviewed/Revised by AGC on 04/09/19 - Effective Fall 2019

Temporary modification of the Grading Policy Procedures due to COVID-19 as outlined in the Grading Policy 7.10 (Temporary Modifications to Definitions and Procedures) Decision Paper.

Reviewed/Revised by AGC 2024

XV. Next Review/Revision Date

2028-2029 Academic Year