



27 October 1999

TO: Members, University Senate

FROM: University Senate Council

RE: **AGENDA ITEM:** University Senate Meeting, Monday, November 8, 3:00 p.m. in the W.T. Young Library Auditorium. Proposed Changes in College of Dentistry Policies on Grading, Academic Discipline, Graduation, and Admissions

Grading Policy

Current Rule:

Section V - 5.1.2.2 College of Dentistry: Honors, Pass, Unsatisfactory are the designations for the College of Dentistry students. The H,P,U designations are utilized only for dental students. The few graduate and/or undergraduate students in essentially dental classes are graded as is the rest of the University.

Proposed:

Policy Statement: An **A**, **B+** or a **B** is within the expected range of performance. A **C** is a marginal level of performance. To remain in good academic standing and to graduate, a student must maintain a grade point average (G.P.A.) of 2.75 or more. Student performance will be reported to the Registrar's office as follows:

A Represents exceptionally high level of performance; four (4) quality points are awarded to each credit hour.

B+ Represents a high level of performance; three and one-half (3.5) quality points are awarded for each credit hour.

B Represents the minimum expected level of performance; three (3) quality points are awarded for each credit hours

C Represents a marginal level of performance; two (2.0) quality points are awarded for each credit hour

E Represents an unacceptable level of performance; zero (0) quality points are awarded for each credit hour

P Represents a passing grade in courses taken on a pass-fail basis. It is not used in G.P.A. calculations

F Represents an unacceptable level of performance in courses taught on a pass/fail basis. It is not used in G.P. A. calculations

I Incomplete; course objectives have not been completed during the allotted course time due to circumstances usually beyond the student's control. An **I** grade shall be given only when there is a reasonable possibility that a passing grade will result when work is completed. An **I** must be replaced by another grade within 12 months or before graduation, whichever occurs sooner. After this period, an **I** grade will automatically convert to an **E** or an **F** grade as appropriate.

W Withdrawn; this grade will be awarded to a student who withdraws from a course or from the College. It shall be awarded only after recommendation by the Academic Performance Committee and approval by the Dean.

Responsible Agent: The Course Director will evaluate the performance of each student with respect to the course objectives and assign the appropriate grades

Probation Policy

Current Rule:

5.3.3.4 College of Dentistry: The following academic disciplinary policies for students in the Professional Dental Educational Program are initiated upon unsatisfactory academic performance.

Academic Probation

A student who fails a course is placed on academic probation. Additionally, the Academic Performance Committee may recommend to the Dean that a student who is performing unsatisfactorily in one or more courses be placed on probation. In each case, the duration of academic probation is at least one complete semester.

Students who are on academic probation will be excluded from participation in certain curricular privileges or extracurricular activities of the College of Dentistry including the following:

- A taking certain enrichment courses;
- B beginning a totally self-instructional course before the official starting date unless this course is part of a special curriculum developed by the Academic Performance Committee;
- C serving as an officer or committee member of any College of Dentistry organization or committee, and,
- D participating in any College of Dentistry extracurricular activity or in the activity of any College of Dentistry organization if the participation involves the expenditure of an appreciable amount of time.

A student is removed from academic probation by the Dean when the terms of probation are met.

Proposed:

Objective of the Policy: To describe the conditions that will result in a student being placed on probation, the terms of probation, and the conditions for removal from probation.

Policy Statement:

A student will be placed on probation if he or she has:

1. a grade point average (G.P.A.) for the academic year less than 2.75;
2. received a failing grade (**E** or **F**); **or**,
3. failed one or more parts of either Part 1 or Part 2 of the National Dental Board Examination

Terms of Probation. The terms of probation will be established by the Academic Performance Committee. The duration of probation will be at least one semester. Passing a course that has been failed is a condition of all probations. Additional terms of probation may be established by the Academic Performance Committee. Students on probation may be ineligible for certain curricular or extracurricular College activities.

If a student has failed a National Dental Board Examination, taking the examination the next time it is offered and passing it shall be among the terms of probation. The terms shall also include required activities to help the student prepare to pass the examination.

Removal from Probation. A student will be removed from probation by the Academic Performance Committee when he or she has at least a cumulative 2.75 G.P.A., has at least a 2.75 G.P.A. in the current academic year, has passed any failed course, and has satisfied the terms of probation in the judgment of the Academic Performance Committee.

Responsible Agent: The Academic Performance Committee

Suspension Policy

Current Rule:

Academic Suspension

A student is suspended from the College of Dentistry if the student:

- A fails to meet the terms of academic probation,
- B is placed on academic probation a second time;
- C has been in residence in a dental curriculum for five (5) academic years and has not been graduated within one(1) year following the end of the time period agreed to upon admission, or,
- D fails two or more courses during an academic year.

Any student subject to academic suspension may request a review by the Academic Performance Committee prior to suspension. The student placed on academic suspension may apply for reinstatement under probation. The reinstatement may not

become effective until at least one complete semester has passed from the time of suspension. (US:4/30/79)

Proposed:

Objective of the Policy: To describe the conditions that will result in a recommendation that the Dean suspend a student from the College, the process for requesting a review of a recommendation to suspend, and the conditions for reinstatement after suspension.

Policy Statement:

The Academic Performance Committee (APC) shall recommend to the Dean that a student be suspended if two conditions exist. The first condition is that the student has **either**:

1. received two or more failing (**E** or **F**) grades;
2. received a failing grade (**E** or **F**) while on probation;
3. failed to meet the terms of probation; **or**,
4. after the second year of the curriculum, achieved a cumulative GPA or less than 2.75

The second condition is that, based on the available evidence, the APC has determined that the student is capable of completing the curriculum after receiving counseling and/or completing work outside the College. The committee's recommendation will include a description of any circumstances the Dean should consider in reaching a decision. It will also include suggestions on what the student needs to accomplish to be considered for reinstatement.

Second failure of Part 1 of the National Dental Board Examination. If a student fails the Board Examination a second time, the APC shall recommend to the Dean that the student be suspended. The committee's recommendation will include a description of any circumstances the Dean should consider in reaching a decision. It will also include suggestions on what the student needs to accomplish to be considered for reinstatement.

Review. A student subject to suspension may ask the Dean for a review. Review procedures will be determined by the Dean.

Reinstatement following suspension. A suspended student may not be reinstated before one semester has passed from the date of suspension. When the student demonstrates that he or she can perform at the level required to graduate from the College, the Dean may reinstate him or her. A reinstated student will be placed on probation, subject to terms recommended by the Academic Performance Committee and approved by the Dean.

A student who has been suspended because of a second failure of Part 1 of the National Dental Board Examination shall not be readmitted unless she or he takes and passes Part 1 the next time it is offered.

Responsible agent: The Dean.

Dismissal Policy

No Current Rule

Objective of the Policy: To describe the conditions that will result in a recommendation that the Dean dismiss a student from the College and the process for requesting a review of a recommendation to dismiss.

Policy Statement:

The Academic Performance Committee (APC) shall recommend to the Dean that a student be dismissed if two conditions exist. The first condition is that the student has either:

1. received two or more failing (**E** or **F**) grades;
2. received a failing grade (**E** or **F**) while on probation;
3. failed to meet the terms of probation; **or**,
4. after the second year of the curriculum, achieved a cumulative GPA or less than 2.75

The second condition is that, based on the available evidence, the APC has determined that the student is not academically capable of completing the curriculum or is otherwise unsuitable for dentistry for reasons that include, but are not limited to: unacceptable personal hygiene, the inability to establish rapport with patients, the inability to work effectively with other health care team members, undependability, or lack of integrity, initiative or interest. The committee's recommendation will include a description of any circumstances the Dean should consider in reaching a decision.

Previously suspended students. If a student is subject to suspension and has been previously suspended, the APC shall recommend that she or he be dismissed.

Review. A student subject to dismissal may ask the Dean for a review. Review procedures will be determined by the Dean.

Reinstatement following dismissal. The dismissed student shall not be reinstated.

Responsible Agent: The Dean.

Graduation Policy

No Current Rule

Objective of the Policy: To define the Doctor of Dental Medicine program graduation requirements

Policy Statement:

A student will be eligible for graduation when all courses have been satisfactorily completed and all of the applicable requirements that follow are met:

1. a student has at least a 2.75 cumulative G.P.A.;
2. a student has passed Parts 1 and 2 of the National Dental Board Examination;
3. advanced standing students must complete the curriculum within one year following the time period agreed to at admission;
4. all terms of probation have been satisfied; and
5. all patient responsibilities and other obligations to the College or University have been satisfied.

Responsible Agent: The Dean

**Summary of Revisions
for the
Policies on Grading, Academic Discipline, and Graduation**

Summary. We have simplified our policies. The **U** grade has been deleted. The **I** grade has been simplified. The **C** grade has been defined so that its meaning is no longer ambiguous. The academic policies have been revised to clarify the conditions that will subject a student to suspension and dismissal.

The philosophy that underlies this grading system is competency-based education (Chambers and Gerrow, 1994). The American Dental Association through its Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) has mandated that each graduate of U.S. dental schools be competent to begin the independent practice of dentistry. All graduates must be evaluated as competent on each competency that CODA identifies and on any additional competencies that a dental school self-identifies. In the proposed grading system, we view a **C** grade as a level of performance that indicates that a student has not quite reached competency. With further work that will be provided elsewhere in the curriculum, we expect that this student will become *competent*. We recognize that many students will occasionally perform at the C-level. Our goal, however, is that our students perform at a higher level. The **B** grade indicates that in the course director's judgment the student is *competent*. High grades (**B+** or **A**) indicate that in the course director's judgment the student is moving towards *proficiency*.

Note that we do not include a **D** grade in our system. We omitted the **D** because we feel that D-level performance implies that the student is incompetent and cannot become competent through experiences offered elsewhere in the curriculum. Performance at less than a C-level is failing performance because a graduate who performs at such a level cannot become ready to begin the independent practice of dentistry without retaking the course.

1. The meaning of the C grade has been clarified. It is defined as a “marginal level of performance.” By contrast, the **A**, **B+**, and **B** grades are defined as the “expected range of performance.”

Explanation: Our goal is to establish a marginal grade that, if received infrequently, will allow the student to continue in the curriculum, but which will communicate that he or she has not performed at the expected level.

2. The threshold for good academic standing has been set at a 2.75 G.P.A.

Explanation: This threshold ensures that the student can occasionally slip to the **C** level without becoming subject to academic disciplinary procedures.

3. To make it unnecessary to refer to the academic disciplinary policies to understand the impact of the C grade, the 2.75 G.P.A. threshold is cited in the first paragraph of the grading policy.

Explanation: Members of the Academic Council of the Medical Center suggested that the grading policy state the threshold G.P.A. Together with assigning 2.0 quality points to **C** grades, this clearly defines the **C**.

4. The U grade has been eliminated.

Explanation: Under our initial proposal, a student would receive a **U** grade if he or she had failed a single portion of a course. He or she could then pass the course by retaking only the failed portion.

Instead of the **U** grade, we will address this type of failure through the College's remediation policy. One reason for dropping the **U** is simplicity. The grade was difficult for some to understand and, in the judgment of the Academic Council of the Medical Center (ACMC) and dentistry's Faculty Council, the potential for misapplication of the **U** grade was large.

5. The I grade has been simplified. The requirement that the **I** grade be accompanied with a letter grade indicating the student's current status (e.g., **I-A**, **I-B+**, **I-C** etc.) in the course has been eliminated.

Explanation: The purpose of paired grades was to give students additional information regarding their status. The College will achieve the same result by requiring faculty members to provide written comments whenever an **I** grade is awarded.

6. The suspension and dismissal policies have been simplified and clarified.

Explanation: These policies have been rewritten to make it clear that two conditions are crucial. If both conditions are satisfied, the APC must recommend suspension or dismissal. The first condition is the same for both policies: one of four (previously six) situations has occurred. The second condition determines which policy is applicable.

7. Failure of Part 1 or Part 2 of the National Dental Board Examinations will trigger academic disciplinary actions (probation and suspension). A student must pass both Part 1 and Part 2 to be eligible to graduate.

Explanation. Since dental graduates cannot practice dentistry without passing the Board examinations, we feel that it is unethical to allow students who cannot pass Part 1 to continue in the curriculum or to allow students who cannot pass Part 2 to graduate. Earlier we proposed complicated policies that were

designed to ensure that students gave high priority to passing the Dental Board examinations. We believe that the present approach is simpler. Moreover, in requiring passage of the Boards, we are following the lead of the College of Medicine, which has a similar policy.

Reference:

Chambers DW, Gerrow JD (1994). Manual for Developing and Formatting Competency Statements. *J Dent Educ* 58:361-366.

Admissions Guidelines

Current Rule:

4.2.3.4 College of Dentistry The requirements for admission to the College of Dentistry of the University of Kentucky reflect the adoption of the standards set forth by the Council on Dental Education. These appear in the "Procedures for Evaluation, Requirements and Guidelines for Dental Education Programs" (May 1971). Because of the academic requirements of the dental curriculum, it is usually necessary for the applicant to have completed at least two years of preprofessional education. The majority of students accepted will have three or four or more years of preparation. In general, the less academic preparation an applicant presents, the stronger his performance and/or experience must be. Students should demonstrate their competence to undertake the biological and physical science courses of the dental curriculum. However, specific courses in the basic sciences during the undergraduate curriculum are not required of applicants. Applicants for admission must furnish information regarding their character, the quality of their preprofessional education, health status and aptitude for and interest in a career in dentistry.

Proposed Policy:

**Admission Guidelines
 Doctor of Dental Medicine Program**

Number of Years	Bachelor's degree desired
Limitations on Junior College Hours	60 semester hours maximum
Required Courses	General Biology with lab* (2 / 3) <input type="checkbox"/> General Chemistry with lab* (2 / 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Chemistry with lab* (2 / 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Physics with lab* (1 / 2) <input type="checkbox"/> English Composition with emphasis

	<p>on Communication Skills* (2 / 3) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>* or equivalent; <input type="checkbox"/> (semesters/quarters)</p>
Suggested Additional Preparation	<p>Applicants are encouraged to pursue a well-rounded curriculum including courses both in the sciences and the humanities. Applicants are encouraged to take additional basic science courses. Examples of courses that will be helpful include biochemistry, microbiology, immunology, genetics, cell biology, molecular biology, and physiology. An applicant's curriculum will be enriched if she or he also takes courses or has experiences that expand social awareness and ensure manual dexterity. Examples of such enriching courses include courses in the social sciences, history, literature, economics, philosophy, and psychology.</p>
Other Selection Factors	<p>Since a caring attitude is central to the practice of dentistry, applicants should demonstrate a commitment to service and a desire to help others. Applicants may wish to highlight volunteer and service activities. Applicants shall gain exposure to the practice of dentistry through observation experiences. We are interested in assembling a student body that includes students from a wide range of urban, rural, economic, and cultural backgrounds.</p> <p>The University of Kentucky College of Dentistry will consider for admission any applicant who demonstrates the ability to perform or to learn to perform, the skills listed in the College's Technical Standards policy. The specific standards are included in the new College Bulletin and Student Handbook. Applicants are not required to disclose the nature of any disability, but an applicant with questions about these technical requirements is strongly encouraged to discuss the issue with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. If appropriate, and upon the request of the applicant, student or faculty, reasonable accommodations for a disability will be provided.</p>
DAT or Canadian DAT	Mandatory; scores of 17 or higher preferred
GPA	3.00 or higher preferred

Background: The proposals have been approved by the Dentistry Faculty, the Academic Council for the Medical Center, the Senate Committee on Admissions and Academic Standards and the University Senate Council.

Proposed Implementation: Fall Semester, 2000

Note: If approved, the proposed changes will be forwarded to the Rules Committee for codification.