

Brothers, Sheila C

From: Davis, Alison F
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 2:37 PM
To: Brothers, Sheila C
Subject: RE: update

The AASC committee voted on the proposal for a new grade type in the college of pharmacy. The motion was for a positive recommendation of the new grade type.

Thanks,
Alison

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Proposal to Change the Grading System for Pharmacy Practice Experience Courses

Submitted by:
Office of Experiential Education
Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science
College of Pharmacy

September 8, 2010

Background:

The Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science adopted a grading policy (1) specifying that grades in all experiential course work in the professional curriculum (i.e. Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences, IPPE I and IPPE II; and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences, APPE) should be assigned on the following basis:

Pass with honors (Represents exceptionally high achievement in all course requirements as a result of aptitude, effort and intellectual initiative. Credit hours under this grade will count towards graduation, but will not be used in calculating grade-point averages.)

Pass (Represents high achievement as a result of ability and effort and reflects student competence in all course requirements. Credit hours under this grade will count towards graduation, but will not be used in calculating grade-point averages.)

Fail (Represents a marginal or unsatisfactory level of achievement in any of the course requirements. Credit hours under this grade will not count towards graduation but will be used in calculating grade-point averages)

The Office of Experiential Education and Department faculty agreed that the new grading system for experiential courses would be phased in as part of the implementation of the new experiential curriculum for students graduating in May 2012 (Curriculum 2012).

The new advanced pharmacy practice experience courses (APPEs) are under development for implementation in May 2011. When preparing the new APPE course/course change proposals for University approval, the Office of Experiential Education was informed that the University grading system currently does not define or recognize a Pass with Honors grade. Thus, we are now proposing the establishment of a new grade for the College of Pharmacy – Pass with honors – so we can carry out the policies adopted by the Department.

Rationale for new grade:

Historically, the College has utilized the letter grade system for assignment of grades to the advanced practice experience courses. Due to the nature of the clinical rotations and the difficulty associated with evaluation of clinical practice, coupled with the fact that many of the evaluations are conducted by off-campus, voluntary faculty preceptors, little discrimination in grading occurs in these courses. In fact, the lack of grade discrimination has basically defaulted these courses to a two grade scale – A for everyone

who is performing satisfactorily (including those performing at an exceptionally high level) and B for those who are performing less satisfactorily. Because the advanced practice experience courses comprise approximately 25% of the curriculum, the overwhelming number of A grades and associated quality points disproportionately inflate cumulative GPAs while not differentiating those who perform at an exceptionally high level. This issue is not unique to the University of Kentucky. Faculty from Virginia Commonwealth University recently described their approach to development of a competency based assessment process for APPEs. In the article, the authors state “the supervising faculty members were not discriminating between grades sufficiently and were assigning students unreasonably high grades in the APPE program.” (2) To address this, many practice experience courses in Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy across the country, including Virginia Commonwealth University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Iowa and University of California at San Diego, have moved to the Pass/Fail or Pass/Fail/Honors grading scale.

One potential problem identified by our faculty for utilizing a Pass/Fail option as currently recognized by the University is that the lack of anything other than a Pass grade may provide disincentive for students to perform at their highest level. This situation may occur in the IPPEs that are currently graded on a P/F system. The addition of Honors to the Pass/Fail grading option would encourage top students to strive for this highest level of achievement.

Courses that will use new grade:

All clinical practice experience courses, including both the introductory (IPPEs) and advanced practice experience courses (APPEs), will use the new grade. The majority of these clinical practice experiences are off-campus where students work under the supervision of community-based faculty preceptors.

These courses currently are:

- PPS 928 – Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience I (4 hours) now graded P/F
- PPS 948 – Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience II (4 hours) now graded P/F
- PPS 991 – Advanced Community Pharmacy Practice (6 hours) now graded A,B,C etc.
- PPS 992 – Advanced Hospital Pharmacy Practice (6 hours) now graded A,B,C etc.
- PPS 993 – Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice (6 hours) now graded A,B,C etc.
- PPS 994 – Acute Care Inpatient Pharmacy Practice (6 hours) now graded A,B,C etc.
- PPS 995 – Patient Care Pharmacy Practice Elective (6 hours) now graded A,B,C etc.
- PPS 996 – Non-Patient Care Pharmacy Practice Elective (6 hours) now graded A,B,C etc.

It is important to note that all courses that would utilize the new grade system will be reviewed through the regular course change approval process at which time the assessment rubrics documenting how the new grade would be applied will be provided. For an example of how competency-based assessment rubrics are applied to Honors/Pass/Fail courses, please review pages 211 – 250 of the Professional Experience Program manual of the UNC School of Pharmacy. (3)

Other courses in the PharmD curriculum will continue to use the previously established general grading system i.e. A,B,C etc . These courses are taught almost entirely by on campus faculty and are such that performance can be more easily measured and reflected in an A,B,C system.

Abbreviation and explanation of new grade type:

The Pass with Honors grade could be abbreviated PH and would represent an exceptionally high level of achievement in a course taken on a Pass with Honors/Pass/Fail basis. As indicated above, credit hours successfully completed under this grade will count towards graduation but will not be used in calculating semester or cumulative grade point averages.

1. Policy on Grading/Evaluation in the PharmD Program, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science Courses adopted August 5, 2005
2. Hill LH, Delafuente JC, Sicut BL, Kirkwood CK. Development of a competency-based Assessment Process for Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences. *Am J Pharm Education*. 2006; 70 (1) 1-10.
3. <http://pharmacy.unc.edu/programs/the-pharmd/professional-experience-program/preceptors/pep-manual>; accessed 9-15-10.

Brothers, Sheila C

From: Rippetoe Freeman, Trish
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 11:06 AM
To: Brothers, Sheila C
Cc: Wermeling, Daniel
Subject: FW: pharmacy grade change proposal

From: Rippetoe Freeman, Trish
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 2:33 PM
To: Davis, Alison F
Subject: pharmacy grade change proposal
Alison,

See below for my responses. Please let me know if you have additional questions. Trish

From: Davis, Alison F
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 2:48 PM
To: Rippetoe Freeman, Trish
Subject: pharmacy grade change proposal

Dr. Freeman,

I am the chair of the senate's academic affairs and standards committee. We are currently reviewing your proposal. Our committee needs clarification on a couple of things.

- 1) The College of Pharmacy also places students with a GPA of < 2.0, on probation or suspension, how does the new grading system figure into this policy?

Students who fail a course under this proposal would automatically be placed on probation (at a minimum) based on our academic performance committee (APC) rules. Students who were already on probation with GPA less than 2.0 who successfully complete rotations with a P or PH would be considered by APC for removal from probation based on two successful semesters of Passing or Honors grades even though the GPA would still remain below 2.0 since the passing or honors grades are not figured into the GPA.

Is the credit hour/grade-point average policy consistent with other pass/fail courses on campus? In the Bulletin, in the Academic Requirements section, it states:

Grade P represents a passing grade in a course taken on a Pass/Fail basis. It may also be assigned by the University Appeals Board in cases involving a violation of student academic rights. Credit hours successfully completed under this grade will count towards graduation but will not be used in calculating grade-point averages.

Grade F represents failure in a course taken on a Pass/Fail basis. It is valued at zero (0) quality points and zero (0) credit hours.

Thus the implications of the grade of P are consistent with the Pharmacy proposal, but if we are reading this correctly, an F grade is not involved in the computation of grade-point average, since it is averaged in at 0 credit hours. Is this correct? If it doesn't match the proposed interpretation of F in the proposal. Is there a different policy for graduate courses? Our plan was to follow current university rules for application of P and F grades, we would only add PH and would follow the rules as outlined in the proposal which make the PH grade consistent with the P grade the University already defines.

Thank you,
Alison

SIGNATURE ROUTING LOG

General Information:

Proposal Type: Course Program Other

Proposal Name¹ (course prefix & number, pgm major & degree, etc.):

Proposal to Change the
Grading System for Pharmacy
Practice Experience Courses

Proposal Contact Person Name: Dr. Trish
Freeman

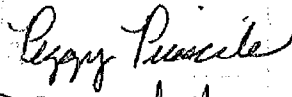
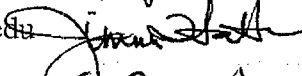

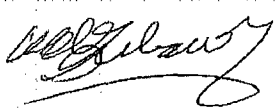
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1381

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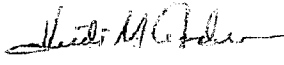
INSTRUCTIONS:

Identify the groups or individuals reviewing the proposal; note the date of approval; offer a contact person for each entry; and obtain signature of person authorized to report approval.

Internal College Approvals and Course Cross-listing Approvals:

Reviewing Group	Date Approved	Contact Person (name/phone/email)	Signature
Pharmacy Education Advisory Committee	9/10/10	Peggy Piascik / 257-1766 / piascik@uky.edu	
Pharmacy Practice and Science Committee	9/14/10	Jimmi Hatton / 323-0268 / jhatt1@uky.edu	
College of Pharmacy Curriculum Committee	9/17/10	Penni Black / 323-5898 / penni.black@uky.edu	
College of Pharmacy faculty	10/11/10	William Lubawy / 257-5891 / lubawy@uky.edu / /	

External-to-College Approvals:

Council	Date Approved	Signature	Approval of Revision ²
Undergraduate Council			
Graduate Council			
Health Care Colleges Council	10/14/10		
Senate Council Approval		University Senate Approval	

Comments:

¹ Proposal name used here must match name entered on corresponding course or program form.

² Councils use this space to indicate approval of revisions made subsequent to that council's approval, if deemed necessary by the revising council.