Grading Guidelines

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Students** shall be responsible for reading about and selecting a grading system option for each class they take at PCC as a condition of completing their registration for classes either on-line or in-person.
- **Students** shall be responsible for ensuring the accuracy of their final grades on their Academic Transcripts.
- **Students** shall be responsible for reading about and making any permitted changes to their grading system option selection subsequent to their registration.
- **Students** receiving financial aid should consult a Financial Aid Advisor prior to taking any steps described herein.
- **Faculty** inform **Students** regarding their standing in class, existing petition processes for extraordinary situations, and refer **Students** to other appropriate advisors for issues outside the classroom related to tuition, financial aid, and graduation.
- **Faculty** record earned grades for **Students** according to each **Student's** choice as described herein.
- **Subject Area Committees** may specify whether a specific grade system option is available for each course in its domain.

Traditional Graded System

- The traditional grade system uses A, B, C, D, and F, as defined under “Grade Definitions.”
- If available, **Students** may select this grade system option at registration or change to this grade system option at any time during the first 80% of a course's term by completing the approved registration process.
- **Subject Area Committees** may specify whether this grade system option is unavailable for each course in its control.
- Degree or certificate requirements may only allow specific grade system options.

Pass/No Pass System

- This grade system use P and NP as defined under “Grade Definitions.”
Transfer Students should be aware that four-year institutions limit the number of pass/no pass credits that may be applied to a degree and frequently recalculate the Student's grade point average by weighting each P as if it were a C or D and each NP as if it were an F from the traditional graded system.

If available, Students may select this grade system option at registration or change to this grade system option at any time during the first 80% of a course's term by completing the approved registration process.

Subject Area Committees may specify whether this grade system option is unavailable for each course in its control.

Degree or certificate requirements may only allow specific grade system options.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled.

Repeated absences will affect a Student’s grade.

Students are responsible for dropping or withdrawing from registered classes by completing the official drop/withdraw process.

Students who stop attending and who fail to drop or withdraw from a class by the published deadlines may earn a grade of F or NP according to the grade system option selected by the Student.

Students having excessive absences and who fail to drop or withdraw from a class by the published deadlines may earn a grade of F or NP according to the grade system option selected by the Student.

Faculty must record the last date attended for Students that earn an F or NP.

By the end of the second week of the term, Faculty are required to assign a mark of NS (see "Marks") and deny access to any Students that do not attend during the first two weeks of the term. These students will be dropped by Registration.

Faculty may assign a mark of NS (see "Marks") and deny access to any registered Students who do not attend the first class session. These students will be dropped by Registration.

Students that fail to attend or stop attending classes and fail to drop them within the published drop deadlines will be responsible for the associated tuition and fees.

Grade Definitions

A Superior

- Honor grade indicating excellence.
- Earned as a result of a combination of some or all of the following as outlined by the
**Instructor** in the course handout: superior examination scores, consistently accurate and prompt completion of assignments, ability to deal resourcefully with abstract ideas, superior mastery of pertinent skills, and excellent attendance.

- Probable success in a field relating to the subject or probable continued success in sequential courses.

**B Above average**

- Honor grade indicating competence.
- Earned as a result of a combination of some or all of the following as outlined by the **Instructor** in the course handout: high examination scores, accurate and prompt completion of assignments, ability to deal well with abstract ideas, commendable mastery of pertinent skills, and excellent attendance.
- Probable continued success in sequential courses.

**C Average**

- Standard college grade indicating successful performance earned as a result of a combination of some or all of the following as outlined by the **Instructor** in the course handout: satisfactory examination scores, generally accurate and prompt completion of assignments, ability to deal with abstract ideas, fair mastery of pertinent skills, and regular attendance.
- Sufficient evidence of ability to warrant entering sequential courses.

**D Substandard but receiving credit**

- Substandard grade indicating the **Student** has met only minimum requirements as outlined by the **Instructor** in the course handout.
- Earned as a result of some or all of the following: low examination scores, generally inaccurate, incomplete or late assignments, inadequate grasp of abstract ideas, barely acceptable mastery of pertinent skills, irregular attendance, insufficient evidence of ability to make advisable the enrollment in sequential courses.
- Does not satisfy requirements for entry into courses where prerequisites are specified.

**F Failure**

- Non-passing grade indicating failure to meet minimum requirements as defined by the **Instructor** in the course handout earned as a result of some or all of the following: non-passing examination scores, inaccurate, incomplete or late assignments, failure to cope with abstract ideas, inadequate mastery of pertinent skills, repeated absence from class.
- Does not satisfy requirements for entry into courses where prerequisites are specified.
- **Faculty** must record the last date attended for **Students** that earn an **F**.
P  Pass
- Acceptable performance.
- A grade of P represents satisfactory achievement which would have been graded C or better under the traditional grading system.
- The P grade is disregarded in the computation of the PCC grade point average.
- This grade is available only when a Student has selected the pass/no pass grade system option during the first 80% of a course’s term.

NP  No Pass
- Unacceptable performance.
- A grade of NP represents unsatisfactory achievement which would have been graded D or lower under the traditional grading system.
- The NP grade is disregarded in the computation of the grade point average.
- Faculty must record the last date attended for Students that earn an NP.
- This grade is available only when a Student has selected the pass/no pass grade system option during the first 80% of a course’s term.

Mark Definitions

SC  Satisfactory completion
The mark used when a Student satisfactorily completes continuing education units (CEUs).

NSC  Not satisfactory completion
The mark used when a Student does not satisfactorily complete continuing education units (CEUs).

I  Incomplete
- At the time final course grades are recorded, the Instructor may, with the consent of the Student, record an “I” mark and grant additional time for the completion of a minor but essential requirement for the Student who is otherwise making satisfactory progress.
- This shall only be done by signed written agreement with a requesting Student and a copy shall be left on file with the division administrative staff.
- Such written agreements shall describe the missing requirement, the basis for the requirement's evaluation, the affect on the final grade computation and the completion date (within one year) for that requirement.
- If no replacement grade for an “I” mark shall have been provided by the course Instructor within one calendar year, the “I” mark shall automatically be changed to
an F or NP depending on the grade system option (chosen by the Student) in affect at the time the “I” mark was originally recorded.

- This mark does not entitle the Student to repeat a course without paying tuition.
- It may be impossible to receive this mark in some courses where, for example, equipment usage is required.

W Withdrawal
- This mark is to be used only by the Student Records Office when a Student has completed the official withdraw process prior to the completion of 80% of the course's term.

CIPR Course in Progress, Re-Register
- A mark used only for designated classes.
- To receive credit, Students must re-register because equipment usage is required.
- This may include courses in modular or self-paced programs.
- This mark may also be used in a skills based course to indicate that the Student has not attained the skills required to advance to the next level.
- If the course is not completed within a year, the CIPR changes to an AUD (Audit) on the transcript unless the course was repeated and a grade earned.

CIP Course in Progress
- A mark used only for designated classes in modular or self-paced programs that do not conform to the normal academic calendar.
- If the course is not completed within a year, the CIP changes to a F or NP (No Pass) (based on the Student's prior grade option choice) on the transcript unless the course was repeated and a grade earned.
- A Student does not need to re-register for the course.

AUD Audit
- This mark may be used only by Registration.
- The AUD mark, when allowed, permits a Student to attend a course without receiving a grade or credit for the course even though tuition and fees must be paid.
- To be assigned an AUD mark, a Student must obtain permission from their Instructor and notify Registration prior to the published drop deadlines.
- Subject Area Committees may specify whether this mark is available for each course in its control.
- Does not satisfy requirements for entry into courses where prerequisites are specified.
NS  No Show

- This mark is assigned by Faculty within the first two weeks of a term to indicate that a Student has never attended class. These students will be dropped by Registration.
- If Faculty fail to mark Students as NS, then Students who fail to drop or withdraw before the completion of 80% of a course's term will earn a grade of F or NP according to the grade system option selected by the Student at registration.

R  Repeated

- This mark may be used only by Registration. See “Repeated Courses.”

Transcript Miscellany

Repeated Courses

- All grades earned will appear on the transcript.
- Courses with grades of D, F, and NP, or marks of I, CIP, and CIPR may be repeated for a higher grade.
- The first earned grade of C, P, or better will count in the accumulated credit total.

Computing Grade Point Averages

- Grade points are computed on the basis of four points for each credit of A, three points for each credit of B, two points for each credit of C, one point for each credit of D, and zero points for each credit of F.
- Grades of P and NP and marks of SC, NSC, I, W, X (no longer available for use), CIP, CIPR, R, NS, and AUD are disregarded in the computation of the grade point average.
- The grade point average is the quotient of the total points divided by the total credits in which A, B, C, D, and F are received.

Grade Changes

- All grade change requests must be submitted by the Instructor within one year of the end of the course, including grade changes made as a result of resolving a disputed grade.
- If a grade dispute cannot be resolved with the Instructor, the Student may follow the student grievance or complaint process.
- If the Instructor is no longer employed by PCC and, following a good faith effort to contact the Instructor, the Instructor is not available for consultation, grade changes can be made by the appropriate Division Dean providing there is sufficient evidence to make the change.
Withdrawal

- Prior to the published drop deadlines, Students shall be able to drop any registered class by completing the official drop/withdraw process.

- Such action by the Student shall result in no charges for the course or courses (or reimbursement if charges have already been paid); the course or courses shall be removed from their transcript.

- Between the published drop deadline and the completion of 80% of a course's term, Students shall be able to withdraw from any registered class by completing the official drop/withdraw process.

- This action shall result in a grade of W appearing for the course or courses on the transcript.

- Students must withdraw before the completion of 80% of a course's term, or a grade will be assigned by the Instructor.

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Time periods referring to “published drop deadlines” are different for each term.

Time periods referring to “80% of a course's term” apply to the portion of the term devoted to presentation of course material and do not include additional time designated "finals week".

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