

Provided by Dr. John Catau, Associate Provost

Academic Policy Changes for AY09-10

Plus/minus grading:

- The plus/minus grading system will be implemented in fall 2009.
- Faculty will have the choice to utilize plus/minus grades, but they are required to indicate their grading scale on their syllabus.
- The policy will apply to transfer work as well as to courses taken at Missouri State.
- In general, a "C-" grade will not be acceptable when a prerequisite requires a "C" or higher.
- The academic status policy that requires undergraduate students to have a 2.00 GPA (and graduate students to have a 3.00) to be in good standing will remain unchanged.

Repeat Policy:

- This new policy, effective with courses taken fall 2009 and beyond, will allow students to repeat any class, regardless of the grade and number of attempts, with no special permission required.
- All attempts at the course and the grades earned (including those resulting in N and Z) will appear on the transcript. The grade from the most recent attempt at the course (excluding N, I, or Z) will be the one used in GPA calculations. For example, if a student takes the course four times and gets a D, B, C and N, in that order, then the C would be their official grade. Also, it is important to note that the course credits (earned hours) only count once for graduation purposes.
- The policy will apply to transfer credit as well as to courses taken at Missouri State University.
- The new repeat policy will apply only to courses taken for the first time during or after the fall 2009 semester. Academic history will not be changed. The only instances in which courses taken during or after the fall 2009 semester will replace grades earned prior to fall 2009 are those in which students have taken a course **only once** and earned a D or F. That is, in those instances the "old" repeat policy will be applied.

Scholastic Actions:

- First semester students will only be suspended if: 1) he/she is a transfer student who is admitted on academic probation OR 2) he/she earns below a 1.00 GPA.
- If a student is placed on probation at the end of a semester and earns below a 2.0 the following semester he/she will be automatically suspended.
- Students will no longer be automatically suspended for having a bad (less than 1.0 semester GPA) as long as their overall GPA remains at or above 2.0.

Admission to Major:

- For those majors that have no admission to program requirements, students will be "admitted" to a program upon declaring that program. These students will have one

catalog year for their Major and Minor requirements, General Education, General Baccalaureate Degree requirements, Scholastic Honors requirements, and other specific degree requirements.

- For those majors (e.g., COBA, Teacher Education, etc.) that have admission to program requirements, the students will be assigned to a “pre-major” code until they have satisfied the program’s admission requirements.
- Beginning with registration for spring, 2010, students will have a hold if they have earned 75 (instead of the current 60) hours and still have not declared a major.
- Because in most instances students can be admitted to their degree program upon their declaration, we will no longer be able to require them to complete the basic required courses in general education beforehand. Instead, we will require students to complete these classes prior to completing 75 hours.

Prerequisite Enforcement:

- As you should already know, all prerequisites were enforced for all classes beginning with the fall 09 registration process.

Drop policy:

- The “N” grade will be replaced by a “W” grade (indicating the student withdrew from the course).
- The drop deadlines will remain unchanged.
- Courses dropped prior to the end of the Change of Schedule Period will not appear on the student’s transcript.
- Courses dropped from the beginning of week 2 through week 9 (for full semester classes) will automatically receive a grade of “W.” (Other course lengths will be treated proportionately.)
- Courses dropped from the beginning of the 10th week through the next to last week of the semester (for full semester classes) will receive a “W.” Although asterisk grades will no longer be included in the final grade roster, instructors will have the option of changing a “W” to a “F” if the student was failing when they dropped. (Other course lengths will be treated proportionately.)
- No drops/withdrawals will be allowed after the drop deadline for the course. This is a continuation of current policy.

Changes in the Fee Policy:

- Students will no longer have their schedules cancelled for non-payment of the \$60 minimum. The good news is students will no longer have to try to recreate their schedules when they discover their classes have been cancelled. The potential bad news is that students can register for their classes, decide later to not attend the university, but they could still be included on your class roster. Faculty may want to exercise the instructor drop option if students fail to attend the first week of classes, especially if there are other students asking to add the class.

- Students will receive a full refund (including supplemental fees) if they drop classes during the Change of Schedule Period (days 1-5 during the fall and spring; days 1-2 during the summer).

In addition to the above changes for fall, 2009, I should also tell you that there will be several significant changes in class schedules beginning with the Spring 2010 semester. These changes will be initiated in response to the time it can take students to get from one class to another, especially in light of our increased presence downtown. Starting in Spring 2010:

- Day classes on MWF will meet for 50 minutes each day with 15 minutes between classes. (Laboratory and other classes lasting more than one hour will be an exception.)
- The starting times for all day classes on MWF will be: 7:30 am, 8:35 am, 9:40 am, 10:45 am, 11:50 am, 12:55 pm, 2:00 pm, and 3:05 pm.
- The traditional TR schedule will continue unchanged (i.e., 75 minute classes with 15 minutes between classes).
- Starting with the 3:05 pm block on MWF, departments may deviate from the normal 50 minute period without special permission. (In other words, rather than scheduling a class for MWF from 3:05 pm to 3:55 pm, a department may schedule a class on MW from 3:05 pm to 4:20 pm.)
- In order to minimize the need for students to travel to downtown locations, all general education classes should be scheduled on the main campus.
- Departments with extensive evening programs will be encouraged to adopt a variety of scheduling formats designed to accommodate student needs.
 - As an example, it may be advantageous to schedule two three hour classes back-to-back so students could complete two classes while coming to campus only one night a week. It could be that one or more of these classes could use a blended format resulting in less actual seat time.