POLICY TITLE: GRADING

Purpose

To delineate grading criteria for the University of Houston School of Nursing program, including undergraduate and graduate tracks.

Grading System

The grading system for all programs in the School of Nursing is based on a letter grade system using A, B, C, D and F. The specific criteria for determining grades and achievement of course requirements are described in both the Undergraduate and Graduate course syllabi.

Grading Scales

90-100  A
80-89    B
75-79    C
60-74    D
Below 60 F
Incomplete I
Satisfactory S
Unsatisfactory U
Course withdrawal W

Certain Graduate courses may be graded as S, U, IP or I. Such grades will not be considered in computing a grade point average. A course may be designated as “pass” or “fail” while others are designated by a letter grade. A grade of “pass” is equivalent to a letter grade of “B”. A grade of incomplete “I” is reported if a student does not complete all the assignments for the course due to unavoidable circumstances. The “I” is valid for one semester following the course. To receive an “I”, a student must submit a written request for incomplete status to the lead faculty prior to the last class day of the course. If approved by the lead faculty, the request will be directed to the Associate Dean for review and approval. The requirements for the course must be completed prior to the end of the following semester. Failure to convert an “I” to a satisfactory letter grade of “B” or higher within the year will result in the “I” grade converting to a grade of “F” in the course. With the consent of the lead faculty, students may withdraw from a course until the official withdrawal date, and a “W” is recorded on the transcript.
Criteria for Program Good Standing: Undergraduate Student

The Undergraduate student is expected to maintain at least a 2.0 (C) grade point average for hours attempted at this institution, the minimum permitted for graduation. Failure to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (C) may result in academic probation or withdrawal from the BSN program.

A minimum course grade of 75 (C) is required for passing in all BSN nursing courses. Any grade below a C is considered a failing grade. If a grade below C is earned in any course, the student will be placed on academic probation and will be required to retake the course the next time it is offered. The academic probation will be removed after successful completion of the course. The student may not be allowed to progress in the program until the course is retaken and a satisfactory grade of "C" or higher is earned.

Students must achieve a weighted exam average of 75% to pass each course.

A student who earns two (2) grades below a C in any two courses, or two (2) grades below C in the same course will no longer be eligible to continue in the nursing program and will be required to withdraw from the program. The Track Manager will notify the Associate Dean of the student’s academic withdrawal from the program. The Associate Dean will notify the student of their academic withdrawal from the undergraduate program.

Criteria for Program Good Standing: Graduate Student

Graduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B) over all Graduate courses attempted at UH, regardless of whether the courses are counted toward degree requirements. Graduate students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (B) on all courses that appear on the student’s degree plan, including transferred courses. Failure to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B) may result in academic probation or withdrawal from the Graduate program.

A minimum course grade of 80 (B) is required for passing in all Graduate nursing courses. Any grade below a B is considered a failing grade. If a grade below B is earned in any course, the student will be placed on academic probation and will be required to retake the course the next time that it is offered. The academic probation will be removed after successful completion of the course. The student may not be allowed to progress in the program until the course is retaken and a satisfactory grade of “B” or higher is earned.

Students must achieve a weighted exam average of 80% to pass the course.
A student who receives two (2) grades below a B in any courses, or two (2) grades below B in the same course will no longer be eligible to continue in the nursing program and will be required to withdraw from the program. The Associate Dean will notify students of their academic withdrawal from the Graduate program.

Students in the Graduate program may withdraw from a maximum of three courses throughout the program. Courses assigned a “W” must be retaken before the student may progress in the Graduate program.

Students who meet the criteria for progression may be assessed for overall suitability to continue in the program if appropriate.

**Determination of Grades:**

1. **When a course includes both didactic and clinical content:**
   Students are required to pass both the didactic and clinical section in order to pass the course. Course exams, including the final exam and standardized exams when applicable, must have a weighted average of 75 or higher for Undergraduates, and 80 or higher for Graduates, before the other assignments will be included in the didactic calculation. In the event the student passes the didactic section but fails the clinical or laboratory section of the course, the student will receive the failing grade earned for the course. If the student passes the clinical or laboratory section of the course but fails the didactic section (grade less than 75 for Undergraduates, and grade less than 80 for Graduates), the student will receive the earned didactic grade. The didactic grade supersedes the clinical grade even if the clinical grade is passing.

   The student who fails the didactic, clinical or laboratory section of the course must repeat the course in its entirety. The didactic and clinical or laboratory sections are inseparable.

2. **When didactic and clinical courses are co-requisites:**
   Both the didactic course and the clinical course must be passed in order to progress.

   The student who fails the didactic course or the clinical course must repeat both courses in their entirety. The didactic and clinical or laboratory courses are inseparable.

3. Course exams, including standardized exams, must have a weighted average of 75 or higher for Undergraduate students and 80 or higher for Graduate students before other assignments will be included in the final course grade calculation. If the weighted exam average is below 75 for Undergraduate students and below 80 for Graduate students the course grade will be based upon the exam average.
Simulation Competencies

Each Second Degree nursing student must pass simulation competencies. Students have two attempts to meet the passing requirement. Students who are identified at risk will be advised to take advantage of remediation services. Students that do not meet the required score on the second attempt will be administratively withdrawn from the course with a grade of “W.”

Students who have a course average below 75 for Undergraduates or below 80 for Graduates at midterm will receive a jeopardy letter. Students who receive jeopardy letters are encouraged to meet with the lead faculty of the course to discuss a remediation plan.

Posting of Grades

Assignment and exam grades are posted in Blackboard (Bb) as a convenience for students. The official, final course grade is submitted to the registrar’s office at the end of the semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision Number</th>
<th>Approval Date</th>
<th>Description of Changes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10/3/2016</td>
<td>Initial version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10/21/2016</td>
<td>Removal of Standardized Examination information, which was relocated to policy S127.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12/2/2016</td>
<td>Addition of Purpose, simplification of Policy Title. Separate single and co-requisite course grading.</td>
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Approved by SON Faculty Council, 12/02/2016

Approved by Dean Kathryn Tart: Kathryn Tart_____ Date: 12/8/16