

Grade Appeal Policy

The goal of this grade appeal policy is to establish a clear, fair process by which students can contest a course grade that they believe has been awarded in a manner inconsistent with university policies or that has resulted from calculation errors on the part of the instructor. The appeal process starts within 20 days after a student receives the final course grade.

Informal Procedure

If a student believes the final course grade awarded by the instructor has resulted from an error in calculation or recording of the grade or reflects an unwarranted deviation from grading procedures and course outlines set out at the beginning of the course, the student should discuss the matter with the instructor and if unsatisfied, with the department chair in the department in which the course was offered.

Formal Procedure

If a student believes that an improper final course grade has been assigned and is dissatisfied with the outcome of an informal procedure, a formal appeal may be filed on the following grounds:

1. Error in Calculation or Recording of a Grade.
2. Arbitrary and Capricious Evaluation: Significant and unwarranted deviation from grading procedures and course outlines set at the beginning of the course (ordinarily during the first week of the course) or a grade assigned arbitrarily and capriciously on the basis of whim, impulse or caprice. The student may not claim arbitrariness and capriciousness if he/she disagrees with the subjective professional evaluation of the instructor.

The following steps must be followed:

The student submits a written statement to the instructor explaining his/her request to review the grading procedure.

Possible outcomes from step 1:

- A. Faculty member finds in the student's favor -- a grade change will be processed at the Registrar's Office.
- B. Faculty member determines original grade is appropriate -- the student will be notified in writing by the faculty member within 10 working days. (Reasonable and necessary extensions of time may be granted by the reviewing officer at any point in the process.)

If the outcome is 2B and the student is not satisfied with that decision, the student may prepare a written complaint which contains supporting evidence and indicates the desired solution. This complaint must be submitted to the dean of the college in which the course is offered and the faculty member within 20 regular semester class days from the dated response of the faculty member.

Within 10 working days, the dean shall hear the evidence by each side and may collect further evidence. Both sides must be given access to such evidence and given the opportunity to rebut it. The dean shall attempt to achieve a negotiated settlement and will notify in writing the student and the faculty member of his/her findings and decision within 10 working days of the meeting.

If the student is not satisfied with the dean's decision, he/she may appeal in writing to the Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs within 10 working days of the dated response of the dean. The appeal must be accompanied by a copy of the written complaint that was given to the dean and faculty member in step 3.

Within 10 working days, the Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs shall hear evidence by each side and may collect further evidence. Both sides must be given access to such evidence and given the opportunity to rebut it. The Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs shall attempt to achieve a negotiated settlement and will notify in writing the student and the faculty member of his/her decision within 10 working days.

The Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs shall take whatever action is necessary to restore equity in the situation. This includes the assignment of an equitable letter grade or a W or P where appropriate. The decision of the Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be final within the University.

Revised 7/29/13

Approved – President – January 2014 (implementation fall 2014)