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DOC 1994-07 Grade Option 2 Policy

University of Dayton. Academic Policies Committee

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PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

TITLE Grade Option 2 Policy

SUBMITTED BY Academic Policies Committee

DATE December 16, 1994, March 16, 1995

Indicate the action required: Legislative, Concurrence, or Consultation, and refer to the appropriate reference in the Senate Constitution (Article IIB, 1, 2, 3).

ACTION IS: Legislative

REFERENCE IS: Article II, B, 1.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

See attached document.

OPTION 2 POLICY

Existing Policy

A student must take at least seventy-five (75%) of the semester hours in the degree program under option 1, subject to further restrictions set by the college, the professional school, or the department in which he or she is a major, and excepting special programs, at the discretion of the deans.

Considerations

Academic rigor would imply a reasonably high effort be put into studying for any course taken. If a course is deemed by the university, the college/school, or department to be important, the student should be expected to do his or her best.

Students are encourage to take as many courses as possible under option 1. Future employers and graduate schools might not look favorably at a transcript containing several pass/fail grades.

General Education and Basic Skills have been accepted by the university and approved by the Academic Senate as sufficiently important to be required for each student.

Some degree programs allow up to 25 semester hours of free electives as part of the degree requirement for the student to explore areas of interest.

Students who wish to take courses that are not required for the degree should be free to explore any area without affecting the GPA.

Proposed Option 2 Policy

1. In addition to those courses which must be taken under option 2, a student may take a maximum of fifteen semester hours under option 2 within the hours required for graduation in the degree program. A student may take any course beyond the minimum hours required for graduation in the degree program under option 2.
2. All courses that are used to fulfill General Education and Basic Skills requirements must be taken under option 1.
3. The college/school or department may place further restrictions on the use of option 2.
4. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the Dean (or the Dean's designee) of the college/school in which a student is enrolled.

GRADE OPTION 2

Current Policy:

A student must take at least seventy-five per cent (75%) of the semester hours in the degree program under option 1, subject to further restrictions set by the college, the professional school, or the department in which he or she is a major, and excepting special programs, at the discretion of the deans. NOTE: Studies have shown that Satisfactory/No Credit grades (option 2) on one's academic record may be a negative factor in the evaluation of application for transfer to some undergraduate schools, for admission to most professional schools (law, medicine, etc.) and many graduate schools, and for employment in some fields.

Recommended Policy:

Restrictions on the use of grade option 2.

- 1) A student must take at least seventy-five per cent (75%) of the semester hours in the degree program under option 1, subject to further restrictions set by the college, the professional school, or the department in which he or she is a major, and excepting special programs, at the discretion of the deans.
- 2) With the exclusion of course work which is offered only under option 2, students may not take more than 15 hours under option 2 until they have satisfied all of the requirements for a degree.
- 3) Students must register under grade option 1 for all courses required for their major, except for those offered only under grade option 2. Unless one of the following classes is specifically required by the major (in which case it must be taken under grade option 1, if it is offered as such), they may be taken under grade option 2: University General Education and basic skills courses, breadth requirements common to all programs and departments in a college or a school, electives taken to achieve a particular number of upper level hours, or general electives taken to achieve the required total number of hours needed to graduate.

Courses required for a particular major are not necessarily limited to classes within the major. For example, if a particular math course was required for the major in one of the sciences, then that class could not be taken under option 2.

If a student chooses to take courses in the major beyond the minimum number of electives necessary for a degree, such classes may be taken under option 2.

- 4) NOTE: Studies have shown that Satisfactory/No Credit grades (option 2) on one's academic record may be a negative factor in the evaluation of application for transfer to some undergraduate schools, for admission to most professional schools (law, medicine, etc.) and many graduate schools, and for employment in some fields.

Reasons for Change:

- 1) Current policy is too permissive.
- 2) Current policy is being misused. Intent of option 2 is being violated.