

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ACADEMIC STANDARDS DOCUMENT

Preamble

The revised academic standards were approved by the Faculty Committee on Academic Performance and Student Conduct April 12, 2005.

Not every student's academic situation may be anticipated. Given a set policy and a list of regulations by which students are expected to perform, it is apparent that alternatives inherently need to be considered. It is also recognized that inflexible regulations often disadvantage those students in need of special consideration due to performance-affecting circumstances beyond their control (i.e., health, family tragedy, etc.). Several guidelines will be utilized during the course of determining student academic direction and may from time to time be amended by the Faculty Committee on Academic Performance and Student Conduct (FCAPSC). These guidelines are meant to supplement the stipulated College or University academic policies and are not intended to serve as substitutes.

Introduction

The Academic Standards, as set forth in this document, are to be used by the faculty and students as guidelines for academic activities in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Professional students will be expected to abide by the Standards of Conduct of the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Policies of the Student Body Documents of North Carolina State University Student Government. Copies of the documents referred to above are available for review in the offices of the Dean and the Department of Student Development, respectively.

Academic Standards*

To standardize grading, the following numerical scale is suggested as a general guideline for courses within the College of Veterinary Medicine, with final determination of the scale and grading to be made by the faculty in each course.

*Effective with the fall semester of 1998, the official grading scale of North Carolina State University includes plus and minus grades.

9 Point Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Lower limit of	Upper Range	Grade Point
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	Range	Limit	
A+	97	100	4.333*
A	94	96.999	4.000
A-	91	93.999	3.667
B+	88	90.999	3.333
B	85	87.999	3.000
B-	82	84.999	2.667
C+	79	81.999	2.333
C	76	78.999	2.000
C-	73	75.999	1.677
D+	70	72.999	1.333
D	67	69.999	1.000
D-	64	66.999	.0677
F	<64	63.999	0.0

*While an A+ grade carries 4 1/3 quality points, a student cannot receive a GPA greater than a 4.0.

The following grades are not used in the calculation of grade point averages:

S Satisfactory
U Unsatisfactory
IN Incomplete

Each course, or segment in segmented courses, in the College of Veterinary Medicine may include a comprehensive retest in its examination schedule. If the course policy includes a retest, that retest must be administered and graded so that the final grade for that course can be reported within the time period specified by the Department of Registration and Records for that respective semester. Incomplete grades are considered temporary and are not to be used as an indication of a poor academic performance.

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Academic Progress Policy

Satisfactory completion of all courses in the professional curriculum will be required before the student becomes eligible to receive the DVM degree. The minimum acceptable performance in any given course is D- (0.667) or S.

A student will automatically be placed on academic warning and interviewed by the Faculty Committee on Academic Performance following any semester in which that student:

- has received a D+, D or D- in more than one course, or
- has received a grade point average of less than 2.0 for all courses taken that semester and/or a cumulative GPA of less than 2.0.

The purpose of the interview is to assist the student in resolving academic problems and to facilitate his or her progress in the professional program. A student on academic warning may not participate as a club or class officer, organizational representative or voluntary clinical service group. Registration for any given semester is predicated upon successful completion of the preceding semester. This implies a prerequisite concept or lock-step succession of student progress through the professional curriculum. Any student that has been withdrawn or dismissed from the first year of the professional program will be required to reapply for admission. Petitions to the Faculty Committee on Admissions from that individual will be considered with the other applicants for that given year. Recommendation for or against readmission will be passed to the Dean and the Dean will determine the final status of the applicant.

Any student that receives:

- an F or U in a course
- three or more D+, D, or D-'s in one semester, or
- a D+, D, or D- while on academic warning

will be dismissed from the professional program and will meet with the FCAPSC. If the FCAPSC recommends readmission, they will be asked to repeat selected courses at their next available offering, as conditional admits, providing space and scheduling of the course offering are possible. Progression in the professional curriculum may be conditional on the student obtaining a higher grade (example: C or better) the second time they take a course. Students who have been dismissed and re-admitted are re-admitted on probation and are not considered to be making satisfactory academic progress; therefore, they cannot receive federal financial aid while repeating courses. Only after they have successfully repeated the courses required by the FCAPSC will they be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress for Federal Financial Aid purposes.

- A student receiving an F in the veterinary curriculum after having been readmitted to the program subsequent to previous academic problems will be permanently dismissed.
- Any students that receive more than six D+, D, or D- grades will be dismissed from the program.
- Students must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above, before being allowed to progress to the third and the fourth year of the veterinary curriculum.

A student may be allowed to substitute a course(s) previously taken successfully for credit in another curriculum if, in the view of the course leader, FCAPSC, Department Health, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the course appears up to the challenge and content of the course offered in the professional curriculum. Students may petition the FCAPSC to accept a course completed successfully in another curriculum in substitution for a specific veterinary course in which they performed poorly. Substitute courses will not be routinely approved, but may be allowed if the original course is no longer offered or if scheduling of course work is grossly difficult.

Students with an F or U grade in any course, a cumulative grade point average of less than 2.0, or with D+, D, or D- grades in more than six courses, will not be eligible for graduation.

Academic Performance Guidelines for Selectives

All students are required to successfully complete 12 credits of selectives prior to graduation. If a U grade is received in a selective course, that course must be repeated and successfully passed. If the course in which an unsatisfactory grade was obtained is no longer offered, or will not be offered during the normal registration period of the student, the student will be required to take and successfully complete the selective course closest in content to the failed course.

Clinical Academic Performance Guidelines

(Fourth Year of the Professional Program)

- Students will be expected to successfully complete all course blocks (elective or required) for which they registered and possess a cumulative 2.0 GPA, prior to being approved for graduation.
- No student will be allowed to graduate until an unsatisfactory grade in any block or fourth year course is successfully remedied.
- Students failing a given block or clinical course may be allowed to petition the FCAPSC, the Department Head (in which the course is offered) and the Associate dean for Academic Affairs for permission to register for a substitute course or a special assignment. Final disposition to the student's request will be decided by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs following consideration of recommendations from both the FCAPSC and the appropriate Department Head.
- Unsatisfactory (U) grades in clinical rotations are considered equivalent to D or F grades in pre-clinical

courses. A student cannot graduate if the sum of D grades in pre-clinical courses and U grades in the senior year is greater than 6. If a student receives an unsatisfactory grade on a clinical rotation that results in the sum of D+, D, D-, F and U grades being greater than 6, the student will be dismissed from the program and will meet with the FCAPSC. The FCAPSC can recommend re-admission, with repetition of courses in which D+, D, D-, F or U grades were obtained. The student can be held to a higher standard (ex: required course grade of C or better) when the course are repeated.

Faculty Committee on Academic Performance

The CVM Faculty Committee on Academic Performance and Student Conduct (FCAPSC) shall be composed of ten members: four faculty members, one elected from each department and one elected from the faculty at large; one student from each class elected by popular vote of the class; one Postdoctoral trainee selected by peer popular vote; and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (ex officio, non-voting except in the case of a tie of the regularly voting members). Membership on the Committee shall be for a period of two years for faculty members and one year for student members beginning each fall semester. Members are eligible for re-election at the end of their term. Six members of the committee, including voting and non-voting members, shall constitute a quorum. This committee shall interview each student whose performance is below the minimum defined in the Academic Progress Policy session. The instructor(s) who issued D+, D, D-, F or U grades may also be interviewed, at the committee's discretion. On the basis of these interviews, this Committee shall recommend to the Dean whether the student will be:

- permitted to continue in the professional curriculum,
- required to repeat the course or courses in which there was an unsatisfactory performance,
- permitted to continue in the following class of professional students, or
- dismissed from the professional program at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

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