



TO: SUNY Cortland Faculty

FROM: Dr. Chris Widdall
Chair, Educational Policy Committee

DATE: April 19, 2019

RE: EPC's Recommendation Change of Policy on Grade E to a F be Recalled

In April of 2017 the faculty senate voted to change the grade of "E" to an "F". This change was decided on to help align SUNY Cortland's grading system with other institutions and clear up confusion for students, and parents, about what an "E" means.

Due to new information, the EPC is recommending that this new policy be rescinded and that the E remain in the quality points system as E=0.0.

Recommendation to the Catalog and Handbook:

Quality Points/Grade Point Average

A student's level of scholarship is determined by the following system of quality points per credit hour:


A+ = 4.3	B+ = 3.3	C+ = 2.3	D+ = 1.3	E = 0.0
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	
A- = 3.7	B- = 2.7	C- = 1.7	D- = .7	

Rationale: Because the "F" has already been used throughout Cortland's history, and is currently an existing grade, we are unable to re-use it. Most recently, the "F" was used as a grade that did not factor into attempted credit hours. The existing "F" - which was not used to calculate GPA - would be impacted by the new "F" where it will be used to calculate GPA. Put simply, reintroducing the "F" can result in the alteration of existing student GPA calculations. When grade modes or records are altered, or amended, grade recalculations occur.

While the "F" was used in grading dating back several decades, our primary concern is the way it can impact existing electronic records that are currently in use in the current system. A review shows the "F" was used beginning in the late 1970's in the H-P-F grading mode, as one example. Most records from the 1980's to the present are stored in Banner. (Some records go back even further, depending on the student's status when electronic records were introduced, or if a student returned to the campus.)


The “F” is already present in the standard grading mode due to its use in student records from this time period.

Current “F” in Banner (Not Attempted Hours)

Active filters: Grade Code: F  Clear All						
Grade Code *	Level *	Abbreviation *	Term *	Status Ind *	Quality Points *	Count in Attempted *
F	GR	FAILING	000000	A	0.000	<input type="checkbox"/>
F	UG	FAILING	000000	A	0.000	<input type="checkbox"/>

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The Current “E” in Banner (Attempted Hours)

Active filters: Grade Code: E  Clear All						
Grade Code *	Level *	Abbreviation *	Term *	Status Ind *	Quality Points *	Count in Attempted *
E	GR	E	000000	A	0.000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
E	UG	E	000000	A	0.000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Policy Example From 1985
(H-P-F Grading Mode at The Bottom)

Grading System		
The College at Cortland employs a plus and minus grading system ranging from A + to D- which is the lowest grade for which College credit is awarded. Failure of a course is indicated by E. The following letter grades and notations are used by the registrar:		
Grade	Quality Points Awarded	Definition and Special Characteristics or Considerations
A	yes	superior achievement
B	yes	good work
C	yes	average
D	yes	below average
E	no	failure
S	no	satisfactory
U	no	unsatisfactory
IN	no	incomplete which automatically becomes an E if work is not made up by end of final examination period of following semester. Exceptions may be granted only upon petition to the instructor and the dean of the division in which the course is offered. In setting time periods for finishing IN-completes, the instructor must give the student adequate time in which to complete the course. Factors to be considered include deadlines for making up other IN-completes and the student's schedule in the semester the IN-complete is to be made up. The dean consults with the instructor involved before granting an extension of time in which to make up the IN-complete.
P	no	pass, for courses taken on Pass/No credit basis.
NO	no	no credit, for courses taken on Pass/No Credit basis.
X	no	official withdrawal from course in which student's work is passing up to the time of withdrawal. Such withdrawal must be approved by the dean of the division in which the student is majoring. No X may be used for withdrawal from a course during the change of schedule period.
N	no	student registered for course but never attended. If student does not officially drop the course by the 12th week of the semester, the N grade will be changed to an E.
WP	no	withdrawal from College prior to mid-term (the grade at time of withdrawal was passing).
WF	no	withdrawal from College prior to mid-term (the grade at time of withdrawal was failing).
WV	no	waiver (course requirements were met through Advanced Placement or Proficiency Examination). No credit is granted for such courses.
H	Honors	applicable to certain courses of an independent study or research nature as designated in the Master Schedule for the semester.
P	Pass	
F	Fail	