

APC Grade Replacement Recommendations

Feb 28 2022 | Emma Witt, Chair

Summary

The Academic Policies Committee believes that Stockton should consider implementing a grade replacement procedure. Our recommendations are:

Students should be allowed three attempts at a single course. After the second attempt, they should seek permission from their school office before being allowed to register for a third attempt.

Grade replacement should be permitted when a student earns a C- or lower in a course. If program standards require grades higher than a C-, students should be allowed to replace those grades as well.

The grade used in GPA calculation should be the highest grade earned in the course.

The original grade should not show on the transcript, but a notation that the course was taken and the grade replaced should.

There should be a limit on the number of grades a student can replace.

Violations of academic honesty should carry a potential punishment of no grade replacement.

Grade replacement should not be used in graduate programs

Impetus

Grade replacement has been discussed multiple times among the Academic Policies Committee (APC) and the Faculty Senate. In 2016-17, APC considered the idea of a grade replacement policy at the request of the Student Senate, but voted against implementing a policy at that time. In May 2021, a request was made to APC from a Faculty Senator (Joe Cirio) to consider such a policy again. APC had an initial meeting about this request in October 2021, and shortly after, a related request was made by the Provost's Office. APC voted 8-0-1 in our December meeting that Stockton should consider grade replacement. Since then, the committee has worked to reconcile the two versions of grade replacement that were presented, researched the way other NJ institutions approach this topic, obtained data from IR, and discussed a range of options.

This document represents our recommendations to the Senate with respect to the formation of a new University Procedure on Grade Replacement.

Suggested wording:

Repeating a Course for Credit

A student may repeat any course once without permission except where prohibited by accreditation standards and/or licensure requirements or if stated in the University Bulletin/catalog. A course repeat applies to courses from which the student received a grade or withdrew and received a grade of W. In order to repeat

replacement-not the number of times a student can repeat their courses. The options were:

Students should be allowed to use grade replacement for as many courses as they want

Students should be limited to a set number of classes, such as 5 courses

Students should be limited to a set number of credits, such as 20 credits

Five committee members voted for establishing a limit on the number of times students can replace grades, with two voting for a credit based limit and three for a class based limit. Three members voted to allow students to replace as many grades as they want. By a 5-3 vote then, the committee recommends:

There should be a limit on the number of times students can use grade replacement. Whether this limit should be course based or credit based, and what that limit should be established as warrants further consideration.

6. Academic honesty

If a violation of the academic policy is upheld against a student, should that student be permitted to use grade replacement? This was a big question for the committee, with many discussions about the varying levels of academic dishonesty, considering the implications of punishing students twice for the same offense, wishing to uphold the integrity of the University, and the current procedures related to academic dishonesty.

We considered the following three options in our vote:

If an academic honesty charge is upheld, grade replacement should not be an option

Academic honesty issues should have no impact on grade replacement

Prohibition of grade replacement should be a potential consequence of academic honesty charges

The committee vote was three for “Academic honesty issues should have no impact on grade replacement” and five for “Prohibition of grade replacement should be a potential consequence of academic honesty charges”

Thus, the committee recommends:

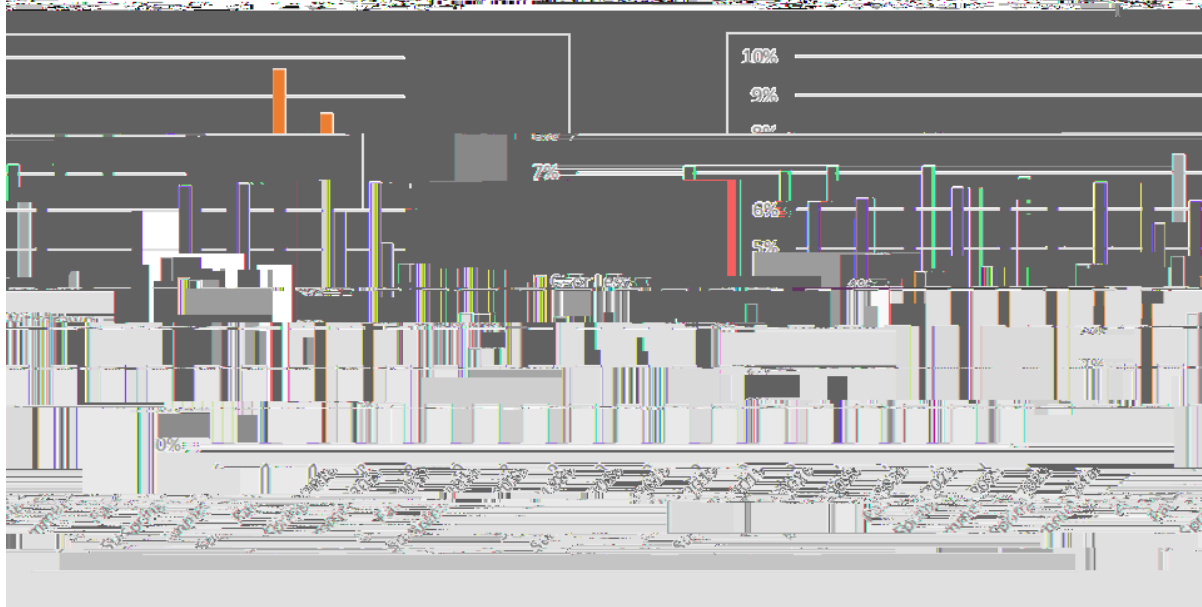
Procedure 2005 Student Academic Honesty should be edited to indicate that denial of the grade replacement option is a potential penalty for vio

Summary

The committee voted 8-0 to send these recommendations to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for consideration by the full Faculty Senate. We would also like to emphasize that this new procedure be evaluated in three years to gauge impacts on student success, faculty workload, and course seat availability.

Appendix 1: Summary ~~of~~

Unsuccessful attempts for courses - Fall 2016 - 2024



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4.9% of the total number of unsuccessful attempts represent successful third attempts.

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Course Repeat by Program

Programs with the most repeats (% of total unsuccessful that repeat)

ACCT 56%

BSNS 59%

FINA 50%

CRIM 38%

HLTH 37%

MGMT 37%

FRST 36%

MATH 35%

CHEM 35%

Overall average = 19%

Question to keep an eye on—will grade replacement increase the overall average of students repeating courses? Will some programs be more/less impacted?

[Workbook with repeats by acronym](#)

[Workbook Repeat outcomes by gender and Race/Ethnicity](#)

[Success rates by program and gender. Race/Ethnicity](#)

Appendix 2: What do other places do?

[Summary from Provost's Office](#)

[Summary from APC](#)

Summary Slides

Course Repeat: How many times can a student take a course?

The slide displays a flowchart with the following elements:

- Top Level:** A box labeled "Repeat Policy" with arrows pointing to "College" and "Institution".
- College Level:** A box labeled "College" with arrows pointing to "Columbia" and "Yale".
- Institution Level:** A box labeled "Institution" with arrows pointing to "Columbia" and "Yale".
- Policy Details:**
 - Columbia:** "4th attempt" (with a note "3 more needs permission from school") and "3rd attempt" (with a note "3 more needs permission from school").
 - Yale:** "3rd attempt" (with a note "3 more needs permission from school") and "4th attempt" (with a note "3 more needs permission from school").
- Bottom Level:** A box labeled "Repeat Policy" with arrows pointing to "College" and "Institution".

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Appendix 3: Proposals for grade replacement

Initial proposal from ^f

When a course is repeated, the “prevailing grade” will be the highest grade earned for that course. For these purposes, a grade that is assigned a numeric weight (i.e. A: 4.00, B: 3.00, C: 2.00, D: 1.00, F: 0.00, etc.) is considered higher than a grade that is not assigned a numeric weight (i.e. P, NC, or W).

All grades earned will remain on the student’s permanent transcript, but only the prevailing grade is and will be calculated in the cumulative grade point average. However, for courses for which a student has received a charge of academic dishonesty, and that charge has been upheld, both grades will remain on the transcript and be factored into the student’s GPA.

Except where specified in the University Bulletin, a course passed more than once may only be counted once toward graduation.

In exceptional circumstances, and where not prohibited by accreditation or licensure requirements, a course may be repeated more than once with permission from the Office of the Provost or designee. “