


Kristen Harrell
Assistant Vice President

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 17, 2023

TO: Dale Rice
Speaker, Faculty Senate

FROM: Kristen Harrell 
Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Texas A&M Student Rules

Attached please find proposed revisions to the Texas A&M University Student Rules as approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee. These changes are for the following section:

Change to Rule 10.5.2 (including 10.5.2.1, 10.5.2.3, 10.5.2.5) Grading

Approved by the Student Rules and Regulations Committee on - Friday, February 3, 2023

Approved by the Faculty Senate on Monday, March 20, 2023

Approved by President on Thursday, April 6, 2023

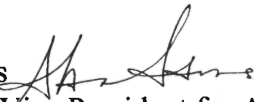
March 30, 2023



March 30, 2023

MEMORANDUM


TO: Dr. M. Katherine Banks, Ph.D., P.E.,
President

FROM: Dr. Alan R. Sams 
Interim Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic
Officer

SUBJECT: March 20,2023, Faculty Senate Item

Please find attached recommended changes to Student Rule 10.5.2, Grading. The attached changes were reviewed and approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee on February 3,2023, and by the Faculty Senate on March 20, 2023, per the Part I: Academic Rules. It is my recommendation that this item be approved as listed below.

- **Change to Rule 10.5.2 (including 10.5.1, 10.5.3, 10.5.2.5) Grading**

Approved: 
M. Katherine Banks, Ph.D., P.E., President

Date: 04/06/2023

PROPOSAL

Erin Herbrich, Director with Academic Affairs, is proposing to add High Pass (HP) grading and reinstate Unsatisfactory/Satisfactory (U/S) within the current grading system. Please review the memo below for justification details.

JUSTIFICATION

Please see attached memo pages below for complete description of justification.

PROPOSED BY:

Name: Erin Herbrich
Phone: (512) 341-4918
E-Mail Address: erinherbrich@tamu.edu
Department: Office of Academic Affairs
Department Mail Stop: Health Professions Education
Date: January 19, 2023

*Present Rule 10 with additions in **bold red font** and deletions ~~struck~~*

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
TEXAS A&M HEALTH
Office of Academic Affairs

1/19/2023

To: Rules & Regulations Committee
Texas A&M University

From: Danielle Dickey, EdD
Interim Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Texas A&M Health, School of Medicine

Erin Herbrich, MPH
Assistant Director, Academic Affairs
Texas A&M Health, School of Medicine

SUBJECT: New/Edit Proposal Student Rule 10.5.2

- Add High Pass (HP) grade
- Reinstate Unsatisfactory/Satisfactory (U/S) grade

Add High Pass grade

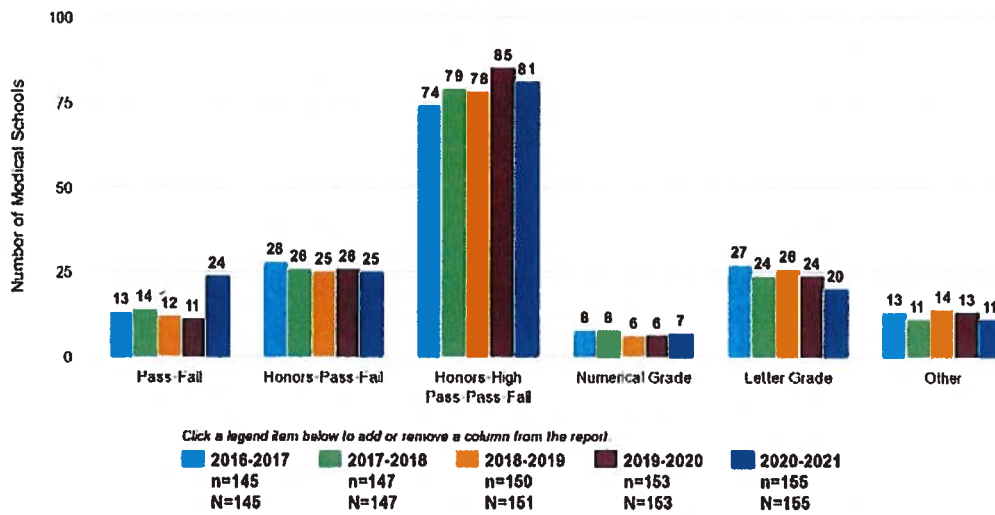
On August 15, 2022, the Curriculum Committee approved adding a new grade of High Pass to the required clinical clerkship courses (IMED 800, MFCM 800, MPED 800, MPSY 800, MRAD 800, OBGY 800 and SURG 800). Implementation would be slated for April 2024 with the Class of 2026.

The new proposal is to add High Pass to the existing grading system:

- Honors: 4 grade points per semester hour
- **High Pass: 3.5 grade points per semester hour**
- Pass: 3 grade points per semester hour
- Fail: 0 grade points per semester hour
- Fail/Pass: 1 grade point per semester hour

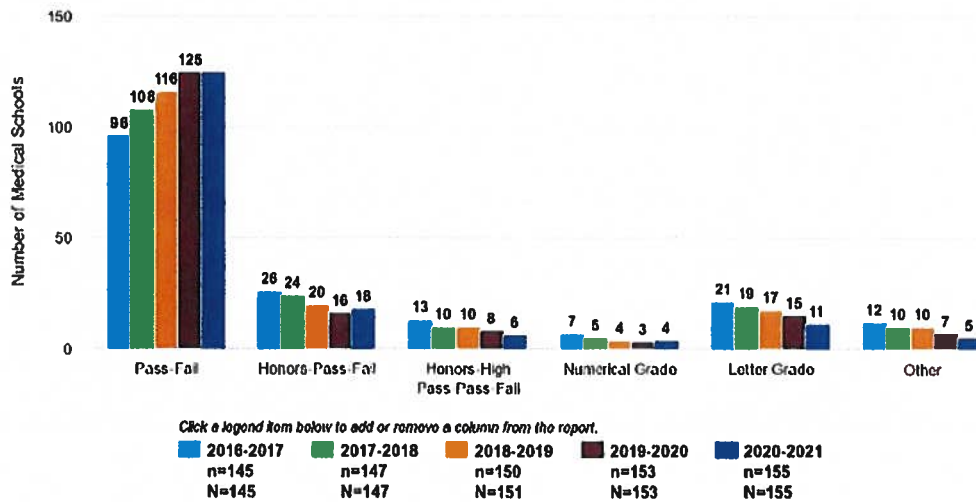
According to the [Association of American Medical College](#), in 2020-2021 only 25 out of 155 medical schools use our existing Honors/Pass/Fail grading system compared to 81 using the Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail grading system. The School of Medicine wants to align our grading system with national standards.

Number of Medical Schools Using Selected Grading Systems in Required Clinical Clerkships



The School of Medicine recently adjusted the grading system for our pre-clerkship phase (semesters 1, 2, and 3) to satisfactory/unsatisfactory, removing the GPA attached to the final grade. This change also reflects national standards of a binary grading system in the pre-clerkship phase of the curriculum.

Number of Medical Schools Using Selected Grading Systems in Pre-Clerkship Courses (Excluding Physical Diagnosis/Clinical Skills)



If we do not adjust our clerkship phase (semesters 4, 5, and 6) to the national standards, the students' GPA will look lower than their actual performance outcomes. Adding the High Pass (3.5 grade points) will add more differentiation to the clerkship grading system and make students more competitive in their residency application process. Adding the High Pass will also allow students to meet our prescribed graduating with honors criteria (3.50 GPA).

Reinstate U/S grade – Justification

In summer of 2022, the Curriculum Committee at the School of Medicine determined to use a different, but approved and existing grade mode for the preclerkship phase of the curriculum. We have continuously used the S and U grade modes for the fourth year and several of our courses as well.

Due to the competitive nature of residency application and match, medical schools are expected to rank students. Although systems vary across medical schools, most schools only include some or all of their required courses in the GPA and ranking system. The Curriculum Committee decided to move the preclinical required curriculum to an S/U grade mode in order alleviate stress and anxiety, increase student well-being, and help students focus on learning core material versus focusing on points and grades.

S/U grading during preclinical curriculum is a national trend at medical schools and has shown to have a positive impact on medical student well-being. Including preclinical grades in GPA calculation and ranking and using a tiered grading system that includes honors has proven to increase burnout, stress and drop-out rates.

The School of Medicine had a U/S grade mode to show that a student remediated a course (*versus retaking the full course again*), and the student handbook has U/S listed as a grade mode. During the move from the Texas A&M Health Science Center to Texas A&M University in or around 2013, the U/S grade was not transferred over to the system with the Registrar. This oversight was not caught until recently with the change in grading for our preclinical curriculum. Although used sparingly in the past, the need and use of the U/S grade will be more significant. For any course using the satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade mode, a “U” will be recorded as a “U/S” once the course has been remediated.

The Curriculum Committee hopes these changes will reduce stress and anxiety while increasing student success. In addition, it will allow the school to communicate transparently to graduate medical education programs about students applying to their programs.

Edits to Rule 10

Rule Number and Section Number: 10.5.2 (including 10.5.2.1, 10.5.2.3, 10.5.2.5)

Title of the Rule: Doctor of Medicine Degree Program (~~College-School~~ of Medicine)

Suggested Changes:

10. Grading

10.5.2 Doctor of Medicine Degree Program (~~College-School~~ of Medicine)

10.5.2.1 In addition to A, B, C, D, S, U, I and W grades (see 10.3 above), medical students may be assigned the following letter grades:

H : Honors, 4 grade points per semester hour

HP: High Pass, 3.5 grade points per semester hour

P : Pass, 3 grade points per semester hour

F : Fail, 0 grade points per semester hour

F/P : Failed course, remediated, 1 grade point per semester hour

U/S: Failed course, remediated. S, U, U/S grades are not used to calculate the student's cumulative GPA.

10.5.2.2 Grades of Q are not assigned to medical courses.

10.5.2.3 Only grades of H, HP, and P, and S are passing grades. Grades of F must be resolved by remediating or repeating the courses and achieving a grade of F/P. Grades of U must be resolved by remediating or repeating the courses and achieving a grade of U/S.

10.5.2.4 When successfully repeating a course, the original F or F/P grade and the grade in the repeated course are indicated on the transcript and are used to calculate the student's cumulative GPA.

10.5.2.5 A temporary grade of incomplete (I) for a course/clerkship at the end of a course/clerkship usually indicates that the student has completed the course with the exception of some portion of work. The instructor shall give an incomplete grade when the deficiency is due to an authorized absence or other cause beyond the control of the student or when all but a single component of the course/clerkship has been completed. The grade will be changed to a P/F/[HP](#)/H when the course requirements are complete.

10.5.2.6 Grading processes specific to the [College-School](#) of Medicine are further explained in the [College-School](#) of Medicine Student Handbook.