

9 May 2012

Report by the Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee

Re: Study Abroad Grading

UARC Resolution to allow grades to appear on the official Hunter transcript—but ONLY in the comments section

Effective with the XXX semester, grades for courses taken by Hunter College students through the Education Abroad office that are not taught by Hunter faculty will appear in the “Comments” section of the official Hunter College transcript. These grades will not be included in the calculation of the student’s Grade Point Average.

Background:

The UARC met with Elizabeth Sachs, director of the Education Abroad office, who indicated that about 400 Hunter students participate in Education Abroad programs, of which about half take courses not taught by Hunter faculty. Historically, Hunter faculty have been concerned about including grades from courses taken as part of the Study Abroad program because such courses were not always vetted (or approved a priori) as having a course equivalency within a Hunter program. Yet, there have been difficulties faced by students who needed to officially document the grade received for such courses, especially when the host institution for the course (in another country) did not provide a timely response to requests for copies of official documentation of the student’s performance in the course taken as part of the Study Abroad program.

Currently, students do receive credit toward graduation from such courses, but the transcript only includes the number of credits received, not the course grade. Such courses appear on the transcript with the designation “STABD.” In addition, the credits are counted toward graduation only if the student receives a “passing” (= C or greater) grade in the Study Abroad course.

The compromise solution agreed to by the UARC would allow the grade to be included in the Comments section of the transcript to provide an impartial record of the student’s performance in the course taken as part of the Study Abroad program, while continuing to omit such grades from appearing on the transcript itself (and from the calculation of the student’s GPA). The Study Abroad Office will send these notes to the Registrar. Under this plan, a C- would be considered a failing grade and the STABD credits would not apply toward graduation.

Re: Course Repeat Rule

UARC resolution on modifying the Course Repeat Rule

Effective with the XXX semester, the Course Repeat Rule will be modified as follows:

FROM:

2. Students may repeat a course in which a D was received. The credit for that course will be applied toward the degree once, but both the grade of D and the second grade earned are calculated in the grade point average. If the course is part of a sequence, it should be repeated before continuing the sequence.
3. A student who has received a grade of D or NC twice (or any combination of these grades) in the same course may re register for the course only with the permission of the department offering the course. This rule does not apply to **ENGL 12000**.

TO:

2. Students may repeat a course in which a D was received **only if approved by the department**. The credit for that course will be applied toward the degree once, but both the grade of D and the second grade earned are calculated in the grade point average. If the course is part of a sequence, it should be repeated before continuing the sequence.
3. **A student who has received a grade of D may re-register for the course only with the permission of the department offering the course.**

The complete copy of the Current and Revised Course Repeat Policies are attached.

BACKGROUND:

The current Course Repeat Policy allows students who receive a D in the course to retake the course numerous times. Only after receiving a D in the course a 2nd time are students required to seek departmental permission to register for the course a 3rd (and subsequent) time. There is a concern that many science courses are closed because a significant number of students are repeating a course because they want to improve their grade and not because they have failed the course.

It was suggested that all passing grades need the permission of the department to repeat a course, including a D grade. Thus, rather than treat the D grade differently, the proposed change would treat all passing grades, including the D grade, equally; they would all require permission from the corresponding department to take a course a second time. This change will be especially useful because, by providing an a priori opportunity to identify students who may need additional assistance (i.e., those who received a D grade the first time around), it may enable departments to provide advising and tutorial assistance to students who wish to repeat a course.

CURRENT POLICY Repeating Courses

1. Students shall not be permitted to repeat a course in which they have received a grade of A, B, C or CR unless that course has been designated as repeatable in the course description of the college catalog.
2. Students may repeat a course in which a D was received. The credit for that course will be applied toward the degree once, but both the grade of D and the second grade earned are calculated in the grade point average. If the course is part of a sequence, it should be repeated before continuing the sequence.
3. A student who has received a grade of D or NC twice (or any combination of these grades) in the same course may re register for the course only with the permission of the department offering the course. This rule does not apply to **ENGL 12000**.
4. If a student receives a failing grade (F, WU, FIN) in a course and then retakes that course and receives a grade of A, B, C or CR, the initial failing grade will remain on his/her academic record, but will no longer be computed into the grade point average. A “Failing Grade Course Repeat Form” must be filed in the OASIS, Room 217 Hunter North.
 - The original course in which the failing grade was received must have been taken after September 1, 1984 and repeated after September 1, 1990.
 - No more than 16 credits may be deleted from the calculation of the cumulative grade point average.
 - If two or more failing grades have been received for the same course and a grade of C, CR or better is subsequently earned, all of the failing grades for that course will be deleted from the grade point average, subject to the 16-credit limit.
 - The 16-credit limit applies cumulatively to courses taken at all CUNY colleges.
 - The repeated course must be taken at the same college as the initially failed course.

REVISED POLICY Repeating Courses

1. Students shall not be permitted to repeat a course in which they have received a grade of A, B, C or CR unless that course has been designated as repeatable in the course description of the college catalog.
2. Students may repeat a course in which a D was received **only if approved by the department**. The credit for that course will be applied toward the degree once, but both the grade of D and the second grade earned are calculated in the grade point average. If the course is part of a sequence, it should be repeated before continuing the sequence.
3. **A student who has received a grade of D may re-register for the course only with the permission of the department offering the course.**
4. If a student receives a failing grade (F, WU, FIN) in a course and then retakes that course and receives a grade of A, B, C or CR, the initial failing grade will remain on his/her academic record, but will no longer be computed into the grade point average. A “Failing Grade Course Repeat Form” must be filed in the OASIS, Room 217 Hunter North.
 - The original course in which the failing grade was received must have been taken after September 1, 1984 and repeated after September 1, 1990.
 - No more than 16 credits may be deleted from the calculation of the cumulative grade point average.
 - If two or more failing grades have been received for the same course and a grade of C, CR or better is subsequently earned, all of the failing grades for that course will be deleted from the grade point average, subject to the 16-credit limit.
 - The 16-credit limit applies cumulatively to courses taken at all CUNY colleges.
 - The repeated course must be taken at the same college as the initially failed course.