

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fort Wayne Senate  
FROM: Steven A. Hanke, Chair of the Education Policy Committee  
DATE: 2/1/2021  
SUBJ: Defining Accreditors for Transfer Credits

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Over the past several decades, two main categories of institutional accrediting bodies for higher education have prevailed. These categories are regional and national. As part of their charge, these accrediting bodies review institutions as a whole. Regional accrediting bodies ensure a university meets an established standard of quality and accredit state-owned or non-profit universities and colleges within the agency's region of the United States. National accrediting agencies review institutions of a similar type, such as vocational, technical, and faith-based studies schools, across the entire nation. A relatively recent change in the Department of Education policy eliminates the distinction between "regional" accreditors and "national" accreditors, mixing both former categories under the "national" accreditors heading. This elimination effectively implies that institutional accreditation is equivalent whether from a traditional regional accrediting body or a traditional national accrediting body.

The rigor and types of allowable coursework and credits of traditional nationally accrediting bodies differ from the regional accrediting bodies. A blanket acceptance of credits from all national accreditors could create a series of challenges to Purdue Fort Wayne's assurance of the Higher Learning Commission's "quality of credits" requirement.

Academic Regulations 1.2.2 states "Transfer credits...will be accepted as transfer credit if completed at a **regionally** accredited institution...". The practical guideline for this academic regulation will be to continue accepting coursework only from traditional regional accrediting bodies with the following wording contained in the university catalog:

Purdue University Fort Wayne accepts transfer credit earned from the following accrediting agencies in which a student earned a C- or better: Higher Learning Commission (HLC), Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), and Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

Equivalent credit will be determined by the Indiana Core Transfer Library, formal transfer agreements, and disciplinary departmental review for courses from recognized accrediting agencies listed above.

This practical guideline in the university catalog is not a policy shift since it doesn't change from whom we accept transfer credit but clarifies what institutions are included in the context of the recent Department of Education changes.

<b>Approved</b>	<b>Opposed</b>	<b>Abstention</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Non-Voting</b>
Hosni Abu-mulaweh			Kate White	Cheryl Hine
Stacy Betz				Teri Swim
Steven Hanke				
Donna Holland				
Shannon Johnson				

Summary of the Proposed Changes to the Purdue University Fort Wayne campus Academic Regulations

Current Regulation		Proposed Regulation	
6.2: Semester grades. The following grades may be assigned:		6.2: Semester grades. The following grades may be assigned:	
Grade	Meaning	Grade	Meaning
A, A+, A-	Outstanding achievement	A, A+, A-	Outstanding achievement
B, B+, B-	Above-average achievement	B, B+, B-	Above-average achievement
C, C+, C-	Average achievement	C, C+, C-	Average achievement
D, D+, D-	Below-average achievement; lowest passing grade	D, D+, D-	Below-average achievement; lowest passing grade
Except in the computation of GPA, these grades are referred to simply as A, B, C, or D grades		Except in the computation of GPA, these grades are referred to simply as A, B, C, or D grades	
F	Failure, or unauthorized discontinuance of class attendance; no credit	F	Failure, or unauthorized discontinuance of class attendance; no credit
I	Incomplete; a temporary record of passing work which (1) was interrupted by circumstances beyond the student's control or (2) represents satisfactory work-in-progress in an independent-study or self-paced course	I	Incomplete; a temporary record of passing work which (1) was interrupted by circumstances beyond the student's control or (2) represents satisfactory work-in-progress in an independent-study or self-paced course. <b><u>This grade does not affect GPA computations.</u></b>
IF	Unremoved Incomplete, Failing. Recorded for failure to achieve a permanent grade by the deadline stated in these regulations.	IF	Unremoved Incomplete, Failing; Recorded for failure to achieve a permanent <b><u>regular</u></b> grade by the deadline stated in these regulations. <b><u>This directed grade counts in all respects as a failing grade, affecting GPA computations.</u></b>
		<b><u>IN</u></b>	<b><u>Unremoved Incomplete-Not Passing; for a credit course Taken under the pass/not-pass</u></b>

			<p><u>option and in which the student received a PI grade. This directed grade counts the same as an IF grade except that it does not affect GPA computations.</u></p>
		<u>IU</u>	<p><u>Unremoved Incomplete-Unsatisfactory; for a zero credit course in which a student received an SI grade. This directed grade counts the same as an IF grade except that it does not affect GPA computations.</u></p>
NC	Completion of the course as an auditor; carries no credit	NC	Completion of the course as an auditor; carries no credit
NP	Not passing grade when enrolled under the P/NP enrollment option Purdue University students who receive this grade will have a grade of N recorded on official transcripts.	NP	Not passing grade when enrolled under the P/NP enrollment option Purdue University students who receive this grade will have a grade of N recorded on official transcripts. <u>This grade does not affect GPA computations.</u>
NS	Not Submitted; assigned when a grade is not submitted by the instructor.	NS	Not Submitted; assigned when a grade is not submitted by the instructor.
P	Passing grade; under the P/NP option, equivalent to a grade of A, B, or C	P	Passing grade; under the P/NP option, equivalent to a grade of A, B, or C. <u>This grade does not affect GPA computations.</u>
		<u>PI</u>	<p><u>Incomplete - Pass; no grade; same as I except that the student was enrolled in a credit course under the pass/not-pass option. It is a temporary record of passing work which (1) was interrupted by circumstances beyond the student's control or (2) represents satisfactory</u></p>

			<u><b>work-in-progress. This grade does not affect GPA computations.</b></u>
S	Satisfactory, credit; awarded by the Registrar upon satisfactory performance in a course offered only on an S/F basis, or on a departmental/divisional examination, or another award of special credit, or completion of a zero- credit course. Purdue University students who receive this grade will have a grade of P recorded on official transcripts whenever the course involves one or more credits	S	Satisfactory, credit; awarded by the Registrar upon satisfactory performance in a course offered only on an S/ <u>U</u> basis, or on a departmental/divisional examination, or another award of special credit, or completion of a zero-credit course. <u><b>This grade does not affect GPA computations.</b></u> <del>Purdue University students who receive this grade will have a grade of P recorded on official transcripts whenever the course involves one or more credits</del>
		<u><b>SI</b></u>	<u><b>Incomplete - Satisfactory; no grade; same as I except that the student was enrolled in a satisfactory/unsatisfactory graded course. It is a temporary record of passing work which (1) was interrupted by circumstances beyond the student's control or (2) represents satisfactory work-in-progress. This grade does not affect GPA computations.</b></u>
W	Withdrew; a record of the fact that the student officially withdrew from (dropped) a course or was administratively withdrawn from a course for nonpayment of fees after the end of the fourth week	W	Withdrew; a record of the fact that the student officially withdrew from ( <del>dropped</del> ) a course or was administratively withdrawn from a course for nonpayment of fees. <del>after the end of the fourth week</del>
<b>6.4:</b> Incompletes. A grade of I is a temporary record of passing work which (1) was interrupted by circumstances beyond the student's control or (2) represents satisfactory work-in-progress in		<b>6.4:</b> Incompletes. A grade of I, <u><b>PI or SI</b></u> is a temporary record of passing work <u><b>for a course graded as regular, pass/no pass or satisfactory/unsatisfactory, respectively,</b></u> which (1) was interrupted by	

an independent-study or self-paced course. A student must have a majority of the required coursework completed (as determined by the instructor) before the instructor is permitted to assign the grade of incomplete. The instructor who reports a grade of I shall file in the Registrar's Office a statement that includes the following information:

- The reason for the incomplete
- The requirements for completion of the course
- The grade for the course to date
- The time limit allowed for completion of the course, shall not exceed one calendar year. An instructor may change the incomplete to a regular letter grade if requirements for completion of the course are not met within the specified period.
- Given extenuating circumstances, and approval of the instructor and the instructor's dean/division director, the time limit may be extended for a period not to exceed one additional calendar year.
- The Registrar's Office shall change the I to an IF unless the student graduates or removes the incomplete within the time allowed.
- If the student re-enrolls in the same course while the incomplete is still on the record, and the course is not repeatable for credit, the original incomplete shall remain on the record

circumstances beyond the student's control or (2) represents satisfactory work-in-progress in an independent-study or self-paced course. A student must have a majority of the required coursework completed (as determined by the instructor) before the instructor is permitted to assign a grade of † incomplete. The instructor who reports a **an incomplete** grade of † shall file in the Registrar's Office a statement that includes the following information:

- The reason for the incomplete
- The requirements for completion of the course
- The grade for the course to date
- The time limit allowed for completion of the course, shall not exceed one calendar year. An instructor may change the incomplete to an appropriate grade if requirements for completion of the course are not met within the specified period.
- Given extenuating circumstances, and approval of the instructor and the instructor's dean/division director, the time limit may be extended for a period not to exceed one additional calendar year.
- The Registrar's Office shall change the **incomplete grade to a grade of IF, IN or IU for regular, pass/no pass, or satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade modes, respectively,** unless the student graduates or removes the incomplete within the time allowed.
- If the student re-enrolls in the same course while the incomplete is still on the

<p>permanently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students transferring resident credit for a course bearing an unremoved incomplete shall have the grade of I recorded for up to one calendar year from the date of admission to IPFW. At the end of this period, if the student has not graduated or provided evidence that the incomplete has been changed to a permanent grade, the Registrar's Office shall change any such unremoved incomplete to IF.</li> </ul>	<p>record, and the course is not repeatable for credit, the original incomplete shall remain on the record permanently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students transferring resident credit for a course bearing an unremoved incomplete shall have the <b><u>incomplete</u></b> grade of I recorded for up to one calendar year from the date of admission to IPFW <b><u>but subject to the limitation of one calendar year from the time the grade was originally recorded at the relevant campus.</u></b> At the end of this period, if the student has not graduated or provided evidence that the incomplete has been changed to a permanent grade, the Registrar's Office shall change any such unremoved incomplete to <b><u>IF the unremoved incomplete grade to a grade of IF, IN or IU for regular, pass/no pass, or satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade modes, respectively.</u></b> from the date of admission to IPFW. At the end of this period, if the student has not graduated or provided evidence that the incomplete has been changed to a permanent grade, the Registrar's Office shall change any such unremoved incomplete to IF.</li> </ul>
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