

To: The University Senate
From: Purdue Student Government
Subject: Academic Regulations Update
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption
Rationale: Time is a limited resource for University instructors, staff, and students. This constraint usually requires students to balance demands inherent to their engagement and success in traditional classroom and experiential learning, professional and personal social networking, family activities, and self-care. To succeed, it is essential for students to be aware of their up-to-date grade status while taking a course (i.e., current scores and grading scale). Not having this information can make it difficult for students to assess the efficacy of their learning strategies, and thus how optimally to allocate their efforts to balance the demands on their time successfully. In addition, such uncertainty can place unnecessary stress and pressure on students. Students have reported difficulty in making time-allocation decisions and in making decisions about whether to change the grade modality of a course, withdraw from a course, or seek further academic support, because they do not know their current scores or the grading scale of the course (e.g., when graded on a “curve”). If students have knowledge of their academic standing within a course, they may more readily seek necessary academic support services and advising in times of poor academic performance. The goal of this proposal is to provide students with feedback on their academic performance throughout the term, not to change course design. Academic feedback may not be possible for classes without formal assessments throughout the term.

Current University regulations require instructors to periodically provide students with graded feedback in lower division courses. However, this graded feedback is not required in upper-division courses and does not provide students with the grading scale of a course, which can at times make it difficult for a student to assess their overall standing in a course.

Proposal: The Purdue University Senate requests to replace Section H of the Purdue University Academic Regulations titled Mid-Term Grades of the Grades and Grade Reports with the following:

H. Mid-Term Grades*

Between the beginning of the fifth week and the end of the seventh week, all students enrolled in 10000-29999 level and those approved for foundational courses shall be provided graded feedback by their faculty. These grades will not become part of the permanent record.

*<https://catalog.purdue.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=12729>

H. Mid-Term Grades

Faculty shall provide all students enrolled in courses from the 10000-59999 level their up-to-date grade status (e.g., current scores and grade scale) preferably via the student's university learning management system. An up-to-date grade status shall be made available at least twice during the course term. This regulation applies to fall, spring, and summer courses. At least one update shall be provided before the final date to withdraw from the course with a W or WF grade. The second update shall be provided at least one week prior to the term's final examination period. The provided up-to-date grade status is nonbinding and will not be a part of the student's permanent record. If no formal assessments have taken place in the course, an up-to-date grade status may not be available.