

GRADES AND RESULTS Policy

DEFINITIONS

Terms in this document, for which definitions are not provided in the text or may not be self-evident or for which usage at ACC may differ to that in other higher education institutions are as follows:

Academic Misconduct: Various forms of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, contract cheating, the sale of one's academic work for use by another person, purchasing or obtaining assessment material through individuals, companies or web-based services.

Assessment: Includes examinations, essays, tutorial assignments, reports, practicums and any other means by which the College assesses whether a student has achieved the learning outcomes associated with a unit of study.

Graded assessment items commonly require attainment of 50% or greater to pass. Certain practical assessments in units with significant mapping against CCEA competencies, will have a hurdle requirement and all assessment tasks/performances must be successfully passed despite the overall mark. When this is applicable, this is clearly stated in the unit profile and the examination and assessment document and the assessment rubric.

Assessors: Designated staff or associates of the College who have been given responsibility for assessing student learning outcomes (knowledge and skills), be it a written or oral assessment or clinical practice based.

External Avenues of Appeal: Avenues of Appeal that are external to, and independent of the College and which are specified in the ACC Student Academic Appeals Procedures.

Formative assessment: A range of formal and informal assessment procedures conducted by academic staff to monitor student learning and to provide ongoing feedback that can help students identify their strengths and weaknesses and target areas that need work.

Hurdle Assessment: An assessment task the student must pass to pass the unit. If a student fails a hurdle, they fail the unit regardless of the total mark they receive. They are used in a unit only where they are required by safety or professional accreditation, registration or licensing requirements. Hurdle requirements are attributed to the assessments related to mastery of clinical and professional skills or attainment of graduate attributes. A hurdle requirement is an assessment task mandating a minimum level of performance as a condition of passing the unit.

Hurdle requirement: A hurdle requirement is an assessment task mandating a minimum level of performance as a condition of passing the unit of study. Hurdle assessments are compulsory requirements within individual units that must be met in order to achieve satisfactory results in those units.

Learning outcomes: The knowledge and/or skills to be demonstrated by students in assessments integral to the unit.

Re-mark: Where a Stream Coordinator authorizes a piece of assessment to be marked a second time and by one

or more alternative assessors, in order to confirm the appropriateness of the original grade or suggest a change in grade.

Review and Confirmation of Grades: This process involves consideration of final grades and interim results submitted by a Stream Coordinator to the Education and Grading Committee for review and endorsement, prior to the date that the final grades are provided to the Academic Board for approval and subsequent release to students. A process of quality assurance, including a review of the distribution of grades and assessment moderation, occurs prior to the release of grades for each semester or term. Assessment moderation is a process separate from the marking of assessments, which ensures that an assessment outcome (eg mark and / or grade) is fair, valid and reliable, that assessment criteria have been applied consistently, and that any differences in academic judgement between individual markers can be acknowledged and addressed. It ensures consistency in marking within student cohorts and across time.

Stream: A scientific or professional discipline or body of knowledge which forms an essential part of the program curriculum. Streams at the ACC comprise one or more units of study.

Student Academic Appeal Committee: A Committee of the Academic Board, which is chaired by an independent member of the Academic Board and which is convened specifically for the purpose of considering a Student Academic Appeal, on procedural grounds. This Committee is available as a formal avenue for review of all manner of student academic issues including review of grade, academic progress and academic misconduct.

Stream Coordinator:

The academic staff member who is responsible for the overall management of a stream of the program curriculum. This includes scaffolding of the units within the Stream.

Term: Half a semester, normally comprising 8 weeks. Different units of study are delivered and assessed each term.

Unit (or Unit of Study): An element of a Stream (as defined above), that has specified student learning outcomes and requires satisfactory performance in assessments that measure student performance regarding learning outcomes.

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the range and nature of academic results and grades that may be allocated to ACC students.

In line with its commitment to maintaining academic transparency, fairness and equity, the ACC has developed this policy and associated procedures which enable students to take the initiative in requesting a review of grades and, if dissatisfied with the outcome, to request an Appeals Hearing.

SCOPE

This policy applies to examinations and all other forms of assessment undertaken by domestic and international students enrolled at the ACC.

POLICY STATEMENT

Examinations and Assessments at ACC are either:

- 1) Graded.
- 2) Non-graded: Refers to Pass/Fail
- 3) Interim results.

1. Graded

The grade awarded for a unit reflects a judgement of the academic achievement attained by a student enrolled in a unit.

No grade for a unit can be awarded to a student who is not correctly enrolled in that unit.

Grades are criterion-referenced and are determined by the extent to which the criteria have been met.

The following ranges apply to all graded units at ACC.

The criterion-referenced form of grading used at the ACC is described below.

Grade	Quantitative Measure	Qualitative Measure
HD High Distinction	Used for a composite mark in the range 84.50% and above (85 -100% when rounded to the nearest integer).	Demonstrates imagination, originality or flair, based on proficiency in all the learning outcomes of the unit; work is interesting or surprisingly exciting, challenging, well read
D Distinction	Used for a composite mark in the range of 74.50% – 84.49 (75 - 84% when rounded to the nearest integer).	Demonstrates awareness and understanding of deeper and less obvious aspects of the unit, such as ability to identify and debate critical issues or problems, ability to solve non-routine problems, ability to adapt and apply ideas
C Credit	Used for a composite mark in the range of 64.50 – 74.49% (65 – 74% when rounded to the nearest integer).	Demonstrates ability to use and apply fundamental concepts and skills of the unit, going beyond mere replication of content knowledge or skill to show understanding of key ideas, awareness of their relevance, some use of analytical
P Pass	Used for a composite mark in the range 49.50 – 64.49% (50 – 64% when rounded to the nearest integer).	Demonstrates the learning outcomes of the unit, such as knowledge of fundamental concepts and performance of basic skills; demonstrates sufficient quality of performance to be considered satisfactory or adequate or competent or capable in
SP Supplementary Pass	Used for students who have been provided a supplementary assessment to pass a unit that includes a hurdle assessment	Demonstrates the learning outcomes of the unit, such as knowledge of fundamental concepts and performance of basic skills; demonstrates sufficient quality of performance to be considered satisfactory or adequate or competent or capable in
F Fail	Fails to demonstrate the learning outcomes of the unit. Used for a composite mark below 49.50% (49% when rounded to the nearest integer) or where overall pass requirements approved for a unit are not met. Pass requirements for each unit are stated in the Unit Profile.	
NH failed hurdle requirement	Used to indicate a fail in a unit for which the student has not been able to pass a mandatory hurdle assessment/s.	
PN Pass Non- Grade	Used to indicate a pass in a unit for which a full range of grades is not available. That is, the only possible outcomes are Fail (F) or Pass Non-Grade (PN).	

2. Pass/Fail

Pass fail grading for a unit or element thereof, to which graded assessment does not apply, is described below.

Pass/Fail	If an exam or course is pass/fail, no mark is allocated to the unit. This is used in competency- based assessments where the marking scale is according to competency based criteria.
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3. Interim Results

For graded assessments, interim results will be converted at the earliest possible opportunity to one of the grades detailed above. All interim results that remain outstanding three terms after the Review and Confirmation of grades by the Academic Board at the end of each Semester are converted automatically to a Fail grade (F), unless the Academic Dean, or nominee, confirms that there is a valid reason not to do so.

An Interim result for a unit is an outcome determined for assessment that is incomplete for various reasons.

The type of Interim results utilised by ACC and the reason(s) for each type are listed in the table below:

Interim Grade	Description
AF (Absent Fail)	The student has completed none or an insufficient number of the various assessment items and further submission of work will not be accepted. This is an interim outcome, and for the purpose of calculation of progress, counts as a Fail (this means that if the requirements of the unit profile are not met, an AF will be awarded). AF interim results will appear as Fail (F) on a student's official academic record.
WF Withdrawn Fail	A result given where a student has withdrawn from a unit after the census date for enrolments with academic penalty. (The result of WF only applies to unit enrolments withdrawn prior to the commencement of a formal examination period.)
W Withdrawn	The result given where a student has withdrawn from a unit after the census date for enrolments and has been successful in an application for withdrawal without academic penalty. W results are for administrative purposes only, and withdrawn units do not appear on the student transcripts.
DE/DA (Deferred Examination or Deferred Assessment)	Assessment or Examination given when a student, through illness, or some other acceptable exceptional circumstances, has been prevented or has been disadvantaged from taking one or more of the assessments (DA) or examinations (DE). This includes students who have been granted extensions on final assessment items. DE refers to a formal examination on a specified date. Applications for deferred examinations are to be approved as per the requirements of the Assessment of Coursework Principles and Procedure.
NS Not Sat	An interim result which can be assigned by examiners to units where the student has not sat the formal examination or not been granted a deferred examination. 'Not Sat' will count as a Fail for progress purposes and will appear as a Fail on a student's official academic record.
PO Practicum Outstanding	This grade is awarded only when the student has completed all other assessment tasks for the unit (including an examination if applicable), but has either not been able to undertake the practicum or work placement component of the unit, or has been given permission to undertake the practicum or work placement components outside of normal term dates. The full range of results is available to students when finalised within the deadlines set by the Stream Coordinator.

RS Re sit	<p>This grade will be awarded when the student has completed all other assessment tasks for the unit (including an examination if applicable) but has either not satisfactorily passed a station(s)/assessment task for a hurdle practical assessment or clinical competency assessment such as in Chiropractic Practice units. They will be offered the opportunity to undertake the failed station/assessment task within the semester or during the deferred/supplementary exam period. This will not be offered if the overall result is a fail.</p>
RO Result Outstanding	<p>Assigned when all assessable items have been submitted by the student but the College is still to determine an appropriate grade at the time of Review and Confirmation of Grades. This interim result may be due to a late submission resulting from an extended submission date requiring the marking time to be extended.</p>

<p>SA/SE Supplementary Assessment or Supplementary Examination</p>	<p>An interim result of Supplementary Assessment or Supplementary Examination is awarded to a student who will undertake further assessment or examination, where the student has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) achieved a minimum of 47.50% (48% when rounded to the nearest integer) of the available marks for the unit overall; and b) has the potential to achieve a passing grade as outlined in the Unit Profile, including achieving any required minimum marks by repeating a single assessment or repeating the examination. <p>It is important to note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In cases where the student fails to score 49.50% (50% when rounded to the nearest integer), or a minimum mark, as specified in the Unit Profile, in more than one of the assessment tasks for the unit a supplementary assessment/exam will not be granted and the student will receive a fail grade. • In cases where the student fails a non-graded (pass-fail) component of the unit, a supplementary assessment will not be granted and the student will receive a fail grade. • In cases where the student passes the final examination for the unit, but fails one or more ongoing assessments, a Supplementary Assessment may be awarded. • In cases where the student fails a final examination but fulfills ongoing assessment requirements for the respective Unit a Supplementary Examination may be awarded • In cases where the student fails a Hurdle assessment (irrespective of their overall score in the Unit) they may be awarded a Supplementary Assessment. <p>Students who are awarded a Supplementary Assessment or Supplementary Examination are unable to defer their assessment or examination any further except in extenuating circumstances.</p> <p>An appropriate Supplementary Assessment task or Supplementary Examination will be provided to assess the student’s ability to demonstrate the attainment of the appropriate learning outcomes for the unit. Academic judgement and discretion will be employed by the Stream Coordinator in the determination of a Supplementary Assessment or Supplementary Examination in unclear cases.</p> <p>A student’s mark in the Supplementary assessment/Supplementary examination will be added to the original marks achieved in their other assessments for the unit. A revised overall mark will be recalculated using the percentage weightings described in the Unit Profile to enable a decision on whether a student has passed or failed to be based on the same criteria, weightings and requirements as were applied to the original assessments.</p> <p>The only passing grade available to a student who passes the Supplementary Assessment or Supplementary Examination is Pass (P). This grade will be based on the revised overall mark for the unit, recalculated as described above, and cannot be subsequently converted to a grade higher than Pass (P).</p>
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4. Appeal of Grades/Results

Should a student wish to appeal the awarding of a particular grade/result, they are advised to consult the ACC *Student Grievance and Appeals Policy and Procedures* which explains the possible grounds for an Appeal, the procedures for a student to lodge an Appeal, and the ACC procedures for consideration and determination of the outcome of an Appeal.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The Academic Dean and the Academic Board are responsible for ensuring compliance with, and monitoring and review of this Policy.

All ACC academic staff are responsible for complying with these procedures and compliance monitoring occurs through exception reports generated after the Review and Confirmation of Grades each Semester.

POLICY REVIEW

The ACC's *Grades and Results Policy* is normally reviewed every three years.

It is a policy of the ACC that any Policy or Procedure may be reviewed earlier as indicated by internal or external factors (including but not limited to such factors as changes in the guidelines of regulatory authorities, accreditation/registration requirements of the profession, or relevant legislation at state or federal level) as determined the Board of Directors and/or Academic Board.

RELATED POLICY DOCUMENTS

- Grades and Results Procedures
- Academic Credit and Recognition for Prior Learning Policy
- Academic Progress Policy and associated Procedures
- Student Support Policy
- Students at Risk Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Student Grievance and Appeals Policy and associated Procedures
- Assessment of Coursework Policy and associated Procedures.

VERSION CONTROL

Document: A011 Grades and Results Policy and Procedures		
Responsible Officer: Academic Dean		
Initially Approved by: Academic Board		Date: 11 November 2020
Reviewed and approved by: Academic Board		Next Review: March 2023
Reviewed and Approved: Academic Board		Date: 14 December 2022
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Reviewed and Approved: Academic Board		Date: 12 June 2024
Version: V3.0	Replaces version(s): V2.1	Date: March 2026
HESF	1.4 Learning Outcomes and Assessment	1.4.3 1.4.4
Nature of Change	<p>December 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate Policy and Procedures • Include Diploma program • Convert Subject to Stream • Confirm unit rather than subject • Confirm the involvement of the Education and Grading Committee and approval of grades by the Academic Board. <p>March 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to align with agreed policy structure • Remove the 70% pass option in recognition of the hurdle requirement approach for clinical proficiency • Remove the Program Development Committee from responsibility in relation to this Policy • Include the HESF reference in the Version Control Table. <p>June 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify the requirements in relation to hurdle practical assessment and the opportunity for a resit. 	