

Proposition: 14-10/11

Date Submitted: 1/31/2010

Sponsor: Rayson (A&S)

**Proposed
Committee**

Assignment: Scholastic Affairs

Assigned

Committee: Long Range Planning 2/17/11

Title: A Proposal to Revise Policies Pertaining to Graduate Course Re-takes and Computation of GPA

Body: It is proposed to place the following paragraph into the Graduate Catalog regarding academic probation.

Students placed on probation for deficient grades will be restored to good standing if they achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0. Normally, this must be done within two semesters for full-time students and within 12 credit hours for part-time students. If the student received less than a 3.0 in a course listed on the program of study, the student's major professor and the student's graduate program committee may request that the student be allowed to retake the course. If the course is retaken by the direction of the major professor and the program graduate committee, the original grade is noted as an "R" and removed from the grade point average regardless of whether it is higher or lower than the original grade. A student may retake a course with approval from the student's major professor and graduate program committee with subsequent removal of the prior grade only once for each course and for a total of three courses in a degree program. The Request to Retake a Graduate Course is available in the Graduate School and should be submitted to the Graduate School before the semester that the student is retaking the course.

Rationale: Each semester approximately 120 to 135 graduate students are put on probation for achieving below a 3.0 grade point average, along with approximately 35 to 45 graduate students that are suspended from New Mexico State University. Recovery from the probationary or suspension status may be the equivalent of a graduate student taking courses from two to three semesters often adding 27 to 36 hours of credit beyond those necessary to be certified to graduate from the student's degree program. In addition, the student is often continued on a probationary status for two

semesters and then suspended, only to request from his/her department another continuation for probation until the student achieves a 3.0 grade point average. Often time, for a student to achieve a 3.0 grade point average and return to the status of “good standing,” would only require retaking the course the student has failed and removing the first grade received by the grade achieved when the course has been retaken. Such a process would eliminate the necessity for a student to take two to three semesters of full time status (9 hours each semester) in order to average all the grades from all the courses whether the courses have been repeated or not until a student achieves a 3.0 grade point average. The suggested policy would help alleviate the taking of unnecessary courses in order to achieve a 3.0 grade point average and would help alleviate the taking of unnecessary courses in order to achieve a 3.0 grade point average and would also reduce the probationary status list of students received by the Graduate School each semester by approximately 50% and greatly reduce the probability of students from achieving a suspension status. This policy would also make available to graduate students an option that is currently available to undergraduate students (with modification).

History:

This proposed change in policy was presented before the Graduate Council. After lengthy discussions, it was approved and endorsed. It has also been presented to the Academic Deans Advisory Council (ADAC). The University Registrar has also been involved in the generation of this proposed policy change.