

Medical School

Course Grades, Years 1 and 2



FULL POLICY CONTENTS

Policy Statement
Reason for Policy
Procedures

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Definitions
Related Information

Effective: August, 2011
Last Updated: February, 2012

Responsible University Officer:
Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

Policy Owner:
Office of Undergraduate Medical Education

Policy Contact:
Twin Cities:
Brad Clarke, Curriculum Specialist, clark772@umn.edu
Duluth:
Brenda Doup, Program/Project Specialist, bdoup@d.umn.edu

Policy Statement

All final course grades in Years 1 and 2 will be either Pass (P); Not Pass (N) or Honors (H).

Final course grades in Years 1 and 2 will be set at a pass (P) no lower than 70% of the cumulative points available for the entire course and students must also accumulate 70% or more of the cumulative points available on the final exam. Up to 66% of the pass/fail decision for the course may be comprised of the score from the final exam. All courses are required to have a final exam* that includes content representative of the entire course.

Final course grades will be criterion referenced.

Each course will determine Honors (H) for that course using criteria representing the work required for that course.

* Refer to policy: Exam Grades, Years 1 and 2

Reason for Policy

A standard grading policy across the first two years of medical school is important to provide continuity and understanding of the learning that a grade represents. A pass/no pass/honors grade provides information on the mastery of content by each student and is not a comparison to the performance of others in their class.

Procedures

- The policies of the Committee on Student Scholastic Standing (Twin Cities campus) and Scholastic Standing Committee (years 1-2, Duluth campus) determine the actions to be taken for a No Pass course grade.
Twin Cities - <http://www.meded.umn.edu/handbook/policies/cosss/>
Duluth - http://www.d.umn.edu/medweb/student_manual.pdf
- Course grades in both Years 1 and 2 will be criterion referenced, not norm referenced. (Students will be assessed on their own independent mastery of the material; their course grades will be dependent on their own true scores, not scores referenced to a class mean.)
- Final exams may contribute up to 66% of the pass/fail decision for the course.
- The balance of a student's course grade (34% or more) should be based on measures such as but not limited to:
 - Midterm (if applicable)
 - Participation in small groups etc
 - Quizzes
 - Professionalism (including peer assessments)
 - Essays/papers/presentations
 - Concurrent Foundations of Critical Thinking case contributions
 - Projects
- The requirements for Pass and Honors must be stipulated in the course syllabus prior to the beginning of the course. These requirements must be criterion referenced and not dependent on student scores referenced to the class mean. In determining Honors, the course director may include any elements of the course requirements (i.e., test scores, peer assessments, quizzes, attendance, papers, etc.)

Definitions

criterion referenced exams

Criterion referenced exams measure how well a student has mastered a specific body of knowledge and/or skills.

norm referenced exams

Norm referenced exams measure how well a student has mastered a specific body of knowledge and/or skills in comparison to others who take the same exam.

Related Information

- Principles for Course-based Student Assessments in the Scientific Foundations Courses, Twin Cities
http://www.meded.umn.edu/policies/documents/Principles_for_Course_Based_Assessments_in_SFC.pdf
- Policy: Exam Grades, Years 1 and 2

Approved by Education Steering Committee, March 21, 2011
Approved by Education Council, April 19, 2011