Policy Statement

All exam grades will be criterion referenced. All exam grades in Years 1 and 2 will be set at a pass no lower than 70% of the cumulative points available for the entire exam. Final exam scores may contribute up to 66% of the pass/fail decision for the course.

All courses are required to have a final exam that includes content representative of the entire course.

Reason for Policy

A standard exam grading policy across Years 1 and 2 is important to provide continuity and understanding that a pass/fail grade is actually providing information on the mastery of subject area content by each student and not a comparison of their mastery level to others in their class.

Procedures

• Students must receive timely feedback on all performance measures.

• For integrated exams, discipline specific sub-scores will be available for students to better inform their own learning progress in individual subject areas. The Course Director may at their own discretion refer to students to the Director of Learner Development (TC)/Assistant Education Specialist (D) if they feel that students have exhibited areas of academic deficiency or need.

• Exam 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 exam grades will be dependent on their own true scores, not scores referenced to a class mean.)
Definitions

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

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

course component
Any subject area or defined skills set represented in a course (anatomy, pharmacology, etc).

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

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