

Graduate Studies Failed Course Policy

Approved by Senate April 2010

Background:

University regulations for graduate students state that a passing grade in a graduate course is 70% (page 360 of the current calendar). Further the regulations include a section on unsatisfactory work. Students deemed to be doing “unsatisfactory work” “may at any time be required to withdraw from the University” (page 361 of current calendar). Unsatisfactory work is defined as including course work receiving a final grade lower than 70%.

The policy as currently written does not specify that withdrawal is mandatory for receiving a grade of less than 70%, only that this may be an outcome. In the absence of clearer regulations programs have adopted different approaches and this has led to confusion on the part of students and faculty members. Accordingly, the GSC proposes that the following policy be adopted concerning failed courses.

Calendar Copy:

Students who obtain less than 70% in a **non-required or elective** course or degree element may take another course or degree element in substitution. If 70% is not obtained on the substituted course or degree element, the student will then be obliged to withdraw from the program. Only one such substitution will be permitted as part of requirements of any degree.

Students who obtain less than 70% on a **required course** or required element of a degree will not be permitted to retake the course and will be required to withdraw from their program. This regulation does not apply to doctoral program comprehensive or candidacy examinations. See program regulations for information concerning comprehensive or candidacy examinations.

This regulation will take effect on September 1, 2010.