

College Academic Standards Committee

Proposal to XXXXXXXX ... W Policy

XXXXX

Whereas, in the Fall of 2019 the College Academic Standard Committee charged the Withdrawal Policy Subcommittee to review the college's current withdrawal policy and practices.

Whereas, the committee has engaged in inquiry regarding institutional data and comparative withdrawal policies at the 30 SUNY Community Colleges.

Whereas, current SCCC W policy does not correspond to the current, standard practices of other SUNY Community College institutions.

Whereas, the W is a student-initiated action, and SCCC's currently policy allows in, some instances, for the W to be assigned without this student-initiation. For example, in the FTFT 2016 cohort, 41.6% of all Ws were assigned at the end of the semester, with no recorded student-initiated action via the registrar.

Whereas, of FTFT 2016 students, 24.8% received at least one W on their transcript.

Whereas, the current SCCC W policy can create unintended negative consequences for students, such as [but not limited to]: inflates the rate of failure to complete coursework and is non-compliant for Veteran student aid.

Whereas, integrity of the SCCC transcript is compromised by the current W policy, in that the W is applied inconsistently and is not comparative to other common practices at similar institutions.

Resolved, that the following changes be made to the administration of the W [Withdrawal]:

1. W is assigned when a student officially withdraws through the Registrar between the end of the add/drop period and the end of 2/3 completion of the course meetings within the semester or session.
2. Withdrawal following the 2/3 completion of a course will only be permitted as a student-initiated action through the VP for Academic Affairs office when the student has documented special circumstances.
3. A grade of XF to be added to the grading system which can be assigned at the discretion of faculty for students who are not attending. This grade will have a numerical value of 0 for GPA purposes. Note that faculty retain the right to use "F" instead of "XF" in this instance.
4. [Note] W is removed from the final grade roster.

And be it further Resolved, that the promulgation of these changes be widely disseminated through all college communication sources to better inform the community of the withdrawal policies, procedures, and implications.

DRAFT