

TO: Rebecca Thornton, Chair
Policy and Procedures Committee

FROM: Jyoti Cameron, Janie Graham
CLASS - Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Revise of the Calculation of Grade Point Average in Major and Minor
For Purposes of Graduation

DATE: November 20, 2006

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Defeated 4/18/07 @

In March 2006 The Academic Policies and Procedures Committee met to consider a request from Janie Graham of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences to change the calculation of the grade point average in the major and minor fields of study for purposes of graduation. Participating in the discussion were committee members Joel Bloom, Norman Nelson, Charles Peters, Richard Scamell, and Rebecca Achee Thornton. Janie Graham, and Frank Kelly attended the meeting as guests.

This memo is an updated version of the one prepared by Richard Scamell following that meeting.

Current UH Catalog Major & Minor GPA Requirements:

Among the eleven general requirements listed on page 72 of the 2005-07 Undergraduate Catalog as general requirements for a baccalaureate degree are:

4. Students must earn a 2.00 minimum cumulative grade point average in courses attempted at the university.
5. Students must earn a 2.00 minimum cumulative grade point average in courses attempted in their major at the university.
6. Students must earn a 2.00 minimum cumulative grade point average in all core courses attempted in at the university.

Among the four general requirements listed on page 73 of the 2005-07 Undergraduate Catalog as requirements for a Minor:

4. Students must earn a 2.0 minimum cumulative grade point average on courses attempted in the minor at the University of Houston.

The purpose of this proposal is to modify general requirement 5 and the minor requirement 4 to read as follows:

5. Students must earn a 2.00 minimum grade point average in courses being used in their major at the university.
4. Students must earn a 2.00 minimum grade point average in courses being used in their minor at the university.

Additional Information:

If a course is repeated in an attempt to raise the grade point average in the major/minor to meet the minimum 2.00 grade point average, the best grade will be used in calculating the major/minor grade point average. Any repeated and/or unused courses will be calculated in the cumulative grade point average but will not be calculated in the major/minor grade point average.

For purposes of improving the major/minor grade point average to meet the minimum 2.00 grade point average requirement, a student is not allowed to repeat a course in which a grade of C or better has already been received (i.e., the grade received the first time a the course was taken

with a satisfactory grade is the grade that will be used in the calculation of the grade point average in the major unless a higher grade is required for major or for professional program prerequisites). Note: this 'best grade' replacement policy applies to courses counted as part of the major/minor only.

This change, if approved, will definitely improve the graduation rates for some students. Students will still be responsible for a CUM UH GPA of 2.0 which will include all UH attempted credits.

University of Texas at Austin General Requirements:

The student must have a grade point average of at least 2.00 on all courses undertaken at the University (including credit by examination, correspondence, and extension) for which a grade or symbol other than Q, W, X, or CR is recorded. Additional requirements imposed by a college or school, if any, are given in the college's chapter of this catalog.

The following two policies appear in the College of Liberal Arts at UT:

Can I repeat a course for credit?

No. If you do, you will lose credit for the course taken the first time. This does not mean the first course grade will be replaced by the second grade received. Both courses and grades will remain on your official transcript, but only the most recent course will count toward your degree requirements.

Please be aware that you are not permitted to repeat a course in which you earned a grade of C or better. However, if you do repeat a course and you receive an F in it the second time, you will not earn credit for this course and you will lose credit for the course taken previously.