

**QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Academic Senate
Committee on Course and Standing
Memorandum

TO: Academic Senate Steering Committee
FROM: Committee on Course and Standing, Gina Capozzoli, Chairperson
SUBJECT: Proposed Change to NC Grade
DATE: December 3, 2010

Purpose:

To provide continuous and immediate intervention to students who receive NC grades to ultimately assist them in optimizing their chances to pass the CUNY Exit from Remediation tests.

The Committee on Course and Standing has approved the following change to the NC grade policy effective for Spring 2011 applicable to MA-005, MA-010, BE-112, BE-122, BE 205, and BE-226. The Committee forwards this for the consideration of the Academic Senate:

Current (page 47, QCC Catalog 2009 – 2011)

NC Assigned to students in remedial courses when the coursework has been satisfactorily completed, but the CUNY Exit from Remediation Test has not been passed. Students may not progress to credit-bearing classes before the related CUNY Exit from Remediation Test has been passed. The NC grade is also assigned to students who do not complete the Introduction to Student Life (ST-100) course in a satisfactory manner.

Proposed

NC Assigned to students in remedial courses when the coursework has been satisfactorily completed, but the CUNY Exit from Remediation Test has not been passed. Students may not progress to credit-bearing classes before the related CUNY Exit from Remediation Test has been passed. If the student does not satisfy the exit from remediation requirement within one (1) year, the NC grade becomes an R.* The NC grade is also assigned to students who do not complete the Introduction to Student Life (ST-100) course in a satisfactory manner.

*All students who received an NC grade before Spring 2011 will have until Spring 2012 to satisfy the NC grade requirement.

Rationale:

Students are required to pass both the coursework and CUNY exit exams in remediation in order to progress to credit bearing courses. Students can successfully pass the coursework in remediation without passing the exit exam, requiring an intervention before a student can re-test on the exit exams. This intervention has been in the form of a 20 hour workshop, as the University requires at least 20 hours of intervention. The workshop is designed to build test preparation skills not overall developmental skills. Unfortunately without a time limit students tend to put off the workshop, often allowing one or more semesters to pass without any interventions. With the passing of that much time, students have little chance to pass the exit exams, and may need more than a 20 hour workshop to prepare for it.

Providing a time limit for the NC grade will encourage students to immediately move forward with the intervention to prepare them to take the CUNY Exit from Remediation Tests. This proposed one year limit may also help students who need more work and time on developing their overall skills vs. simply preparing them for an exam. Retaking the course will allow those students in need to continue building their skills which they will carry forward with them in their credit bearing courses.

Finally, this grade change will be similar to the current policy of the INC grade in which students have a one semester requirement to successfully complete the coursework. The one-year requirement for the NC grade however, will allow more flexibility for students without leaving the intervention open-ended.