**Proposal**

**Minor Changes to TCC’s course grading schema**

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**Proposal #1: Eliminate the D- course grade from the college’s grading system.**

Rationale: There are two issues, one internal and applying to all classes, the other external and applying to transfer courses and degrees.

* TCC’s current grade scheme (see back of sheet or below) Defines a D grade as “minimum”. If so, what does a D- mean? Below minimum?
* Generally four year colleges will not accept any course with a D- grade in transfer. However, TCC allows these grades to be counted toward all of our transfer Associate degrees. This is confusing and contradictory. If a student earns a D- grade in English 102 and counts that course toward their Associate degree, when they transfer, they will not only lose that course, but could lose their entire Associate degree and be treated as a non-degree holding transfer student.

It would be much easier to eliminate the D- grade altogether than to try and disallow it specifically in transfer areas. Many community colleges already have no D- grade, and since this transfer issue came to light, many are making the same change as this proposal.

This change would be logistically easy to implement. D- would simply disappear from the list of possible grades to assign in Instructor Briefcase.

**Proposal #2: Change the definition of the S course grade to be “C or higher” rather than the current definition of “C- or higher”.**

Rationale: Again there are both internal and external issues.

* In many areas, TCC requires students to earn a C or higher to progress to the next course (i.e. English). As currently defined, an S grade does not meet this criteria.
* Four year colleges often required a C or higher or 2.00 or higher for transfer courses to fulfill specific requirements. As currently defined, an S grade will not fulfill any such requirement.
* The vast majority of other Washington community colleges define an S grade as “C or higher” (or 2.0 or higher if they use decimal grading)

**Grading Policies**

Tacoma Community College uses the following grading system and grade-point values for reporting and recording academic achievement. Faculty may or may not choose to use the plus/minus grading option for any given class.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| Grade | Description | Grade Points |
| A | Honor | 4.0 |
| A- |   | 3.7 |
| B+ |   | 3.3 |
| B | Good | 3.0 |
| B- |   | 2.7 |
| C+ |   | 2.3 |
| C | Average | 2.0 |
| C- |   | 1.7 |
| D+ |   | 1.3 |
| D | Minimum | 1.0 |
| D- |   | 0.7 |
| E | Failure to complete minimum requirement | 0.0 |
| W | Official withdrawal from course | 0.0 |
|   | *Applies 11th through 55th calendar day \** |
| WI | Instructor approved withdrawal | 0.0 |
|   | *Applies after 55th calendar day \** |
| V | Unofficial withdrawal | 0.0 |
|   | *Student commenced attendance, then stopped attending before instructor had sufficient data to evaluate. Instructor reports last date of attendance on grade sheet.* |
| I | Incomplete (see Incomplete Grade for more detail) | 0.0 |
| S | Satisfactory (credit only, no grade point) | 0.0 |
| U | Unsatisfactory (no credit, no grade point) | 0.0 |
| N | Audit (see Course Audit for detail) | 0.0 |
| R | Repeat R beside lowest grade | 0.0 |
| Z | Unofficial withdrawal with zero attendance | 0.0 |

A, B, C, D and S grades are considered passing. ‘S’ and ‘U’ identify courses taken on pass/fail basis and are not counted in computing grade point averages. ‘S’ is given only if the student performed at a grade of ‘C-’ or higher. For more detailed information see [Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grade](http://www.tacomacc.edu/catalog/11-12catalog/1592.htm). An ‘E’ grade is not considered passing and does not earn credit toward a degree or certificate.