



COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Incomplete Grade Policy

Policy Number 1-11

Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania

Approved by University Senate, November 13, 2025

Issued by Interim President Jeffery Osgood, 12/05/2025

Responsible Office: Academic Affairs Committee

Previous Policy: IAP 32

1. Purpose

When a student cannot complete course requirements due to serious circumstances outside of their control an instructor may choose to issue a grade of "I" (Incomplete).

2. Scope

Students who receive a grade of "I" in a course, the faculty who issue a grade of "I", and staff tasked with maintaining student records, specifically the process of turning an "I" into an actual grade are affected by this policy.

3. Definitions, Roles and Responsibilities

3.1. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1.1. Students who receive a grade of "I" in a course are responsible for executing the plan given to them by the instructor issuing the grade not later than the end of the semester following the session in which the "I" was issued.

3.1.2. Faculty who issue a grade of "I" to a student are responsible for filing a plan for the student to resolve the "I", detailing the work that must be completed to remove the incomplete. Faculty file grade change forms when the student completes the outstanding work.

Faculty may grant an extension to complete the missing work by notifying the Registrar's office.

3.1.3. The Registrar's Office maintains records of incomplete grades ("I") issued to students and processes change of grade forms upon completion of outstanding



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work. If a student fails to complete the outstanding work by the specified deadline, the Registrar's Office will replace the "I" grade with the default grade indicated when the incomplete was filed.

4. Policy

- 4.1. An "I" (Incomplete) grade is used to denote unfinished work because of serious mitigating circumstances beyond the student's control. It is a privilege granted because of circumstances, not a right to be expected by the student. This is a temporary grade to be given only when the instructor believes that the student has been unable to complete the course requirements due to circumstances beyond his/her control. Failure of a student to take a final examination or complete other course requirements without prior arrangement with the instructor or legitimate excuse is not a justification for a grade of "I".
- 4.2. Instructors submitting the grade of "I" to the Registrar must specify the deadline for completion of outstanding work and a default grade if the work is not completed. The deadline shall be no later than the last day of classes, not including finals, of the semester following the session in which the "I" was recorded.
- 4.3. The instructor also files a written plan for the student to complete the course requirements.
- 4.4. The student is responsible for completing the plan by the specified deadline. In cases where serious circumstances prevail a request for an extension can be made by the faculty member to the Registrar's Office.

5. Procedures, Standards, and Guidelines

- 5.1 Automated form on file with the Registrar's office (not created yet).
- 5.2 Grade change form

6 Compliance and Enforcement

- 6.1 Every University policy will undergo a regular review on a five-year cycle, with approximately 20% of the total policies inventory being reviewed each year.
- 6.2 All policy reviews will be conducted by the responsible Senate Committee to assure that the policy remains relevant and aligns with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, PASSHE Board of Governors policies, and other University policies, procedures, standards, or guidelines.

7. Additional Information



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6.3 Supporting Documents

6.4 History

6.4.1 [Indicate whether the policy is a new policy, or whether it supersedes an existing policy. Include the effective date of the original policy as well as the date(s) of any subsequent amendments (if known).]

6.4.2 Effective Date – [Date Approved by the University Senate or Issued by the Office of the President as an Interim Policy]

6.4.3 Revised – September 8, 2025

6.4.4 Next Review Date - [Date of Revision]

6.5 Related Policies - [Reference related policies]

6.6 Contacts for Additional Information and Reporting

[Name of Office/Division, Commonwealth University, Attn: [Name of person to serve as contact, email address of contact hyperlinked, office phone of contact in format of XXX.XXX.XXXX]