



Policy

4231 Grade Changes

The Chancellor shall implement procedures to assure the accuracy and integrity of all grades awarded by faculty. The procedures shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- Assurance that in the absence of mistake, bad faith, fraud or incompetence, the grades awarded by faculty shall be final.
- Procedures for students to challenge the correctness of a grade.
- The installation of security measures to protect grade records and grade storage systems from unauthorized access.
- Limitations on access to grade records and grade storage systems.
- Discipline for students or staff who are found to have gained access to grade records without proper authorization or to have changed grades without proper authorization.
- Notice to students, faculty, transfer institutions, accreditation agencies and law enforcement agencies if unauthorized access to grade records and grade storage systems is discovered to have occurred.

Also see BP 3310 titled Records Retention and Destruction, AP 4231 titled Grade Changes, and BP/AP 5040 titled Student Records, Directory Information, and Privacy.

Cross References (see also):

YCCD Policy 3310 – Records Retention and Destruction

YCCD Policy 5040 – Student Records, Directory Information, and Privacy

References:

Education Code Sections [76224](#) and [76232](#); Title 5 Section [55025](#)

Adopted: April 11, 2018

Last Reviewed: April 11, 2018

Administrative Procedure

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4231 Grade Changes

Changing Grades

The instructor of the course shall determine the grade to be awarded to each student.

The determination of the student’s grade by the instructor is final in the absence of mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetence. “Mistake” may include, but is not limited to, errors made by an instructor in calculating a student’s grade and clerical errors. “Fraud” may include, but is not limited to, inaccurate recording or change of a grade by any person who gains access to grade records without authorization.

The removal or change of an incorrect grade from a student’s record shall only be done pursuant to Education Code Section [76232](#) or by an alternative method that ensures that each student shall be afforded an objective and reasonable review of the requested grade change.

If the student has filed a discrimination complaint, if the instructor of record is not available, or if the District has determined that there may have been gross misconduct by the instructor of record, then another faculty member may substitute for the instructor of record.

Mistakes, as defined above, will be repaired administratively based on the recommendation of the Petition Committee. In the case of fraud, bad faith, or incompetence, the final determination concerning removal or change of grade will be made by the Vice President of Instruction with input from the faculty member, Division Dean, and/or the Petition Committee.

In all cases, the instructor who first awarded the grade will be given written notice of the change.

Security of Grade Records

The District shall implement security measures for student records that assure no person may obtain access to student grade records without proper authorization. These measures shall be installed as part of any computerized grade data storage system.

The measures implemented by the District shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, password protection for all student grade data bases, locking mechanisms for computer stations from which student grade data bases can be viewed, and strict limits on the number of persons who are authorized to change student grades.

After a decision has been rendered, results will be entered by an employee designated by the Vice President of Student Services. No more than five District employees may be authorized to update student grade records. Only regular full-time employees of the District may be authorized to update grade records. Student workers shall not have access to grade records, and student workers may not change grade records at any time.

Any person who discovers that grades have been changed by someone other than the persons authorized to do so shall notify the Vice President of Student Services immediately. The Vice President of Student Services shall immediately take steps to lock the grade storage system entirely while an investigation is conducted.

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If any student’s grade record is found to have been changed without proper authorization, the District will notify 1) the student; 2) the instructor who originally awarded the grade; 3) any educational institution to which the student has transferred; 4) the accreditation agency; and 5) appropriate local law enforcement authorities.

Whenever a grade is changed for any reason, corrected transcripts will be sent to any educational institution to which a student has transferred.

Any student or employee who is found to have gained access to grade recording systems without proper authorization, or who is found to have changed any grade without proper authority to do so, shall be subject to discipline in accordance with District policies and procedures.

Any person who is found to have gained access to grade recording systems without proper authorization, or who is found to have changed any grade without proper authority to do so, shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the college where the incident occurred.

Also see BP 3310 titled Records Retention and Destruction and BP/AP 5040 titled Student Records, Directory Information, and Privacy.

References:

Education Code Sections [76224](#) and [76232](#); Title 5 Section [55025](#)

Procedure Last Revised: April 11, 2018

Last Reviewed: April 11, 2018