

FW Grade Option-Update for Faculty

Timeline

The FW grade option was officially endorsed in Spring 2025 and will go into effect in Spring 2026.

Integration

To ensure that students are aware of this grading option, **please be sure to include the FW grade on your Spring 2026 and subsequent syllabi**. Please feel free to use any or all of the language below to clarify what this grading symbol means:

- An **F** grade is used when a student has been attending all semester but did not earn enough points to pass the class.
- An **FW** grade is used when a student stops attending the class after the W deadline and did not pass the class.

If you wish, you may reference [Title 5 regulations](#) which say that: “The “FW” grade symbol [is to be used] to indicate that a student has both ceased participating in a course sometime after the last day to officially withdraw from the course without having achieved a final passing grade, and that the student has not received district authorization to withdraw from the course under extenuating circumstances.”

Our [Administrative Procedure 4230 Grading and Academic Record Symbols](#) reflects this same language:

FW	Failing (Unauthorized Withdrawal)	Grade Point = 0 Used for a student that has both ceased participating in a course sometime after the last day to officially withdraw from the course without having achieved a final passing grade, and that the student has not received district authorization to withdraw from the course under extenuating circumstances. The “FW” symbol may not be used if a student has qualified for and been granted military withdrawal.
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Key Points

- **The FW grade option will be implemented in Spring 2026.**
- **To maximize transparency to students, include the FW on your syllabi for Spring 2026 and beyond.**
- **If a student stops attending your class after the W deadline but before the term’s end and does not have sufficient points to pass, an FW should be assigned rather than an F.**