Non-Consent Agenda Item:
Approval to amend the Grades and the Grading System Policy with information on C Grades as Course Prerequisites

Effective Term:
For undergraduate courses offered in Fall 2017

Proposed amendment to Grades and the Grading System (in red font):

Regular Grades:
A, B, C, D, and E constitute the regular grades used at the University of Arizona. Regular grades are included in the calculation of the grade-point-average (GPA).

A minimum grade of C may be required to register for some courses when a higher level of mastery than a D is necessary for the student’s success in the subsequent course. Students should check the requisites (recommended course work) and enrollment requirements (required course work) when planning their class schedules and registering for the next term. Recommended and required course work is noted in the UAccess Class Search and in the Course Catalog.

Justification for the amendment:
• A faculty member requested that department curriculum committees have the authority to set a prerequisite grade of C in a required course for academic purposes. The proposer explained that a C (satisfactory) grade prerequisite in foundational course material would only be justified when a higher level of mastery than a D (poor) is necessary for the student’s success in the subsequent course.
• When grade prerequisites are added to the Course Catalog, students will see the expected level of achievement for academic progress in more than one source (currently only visible in UAccess Class Search during the registration period). Grade requirements in the Course Catalog will be transparent to students, faculty, and staff.

Management of the amendment:
a) This policy amendment replaces the current procedure (not recorded in public documents) of submitting C-grade prerequisite requests to the Undergraduate Council’s Academic Programs Subcommittee for review. It places the decision on setting a C-level of course mastery with the faculty in the academic unit.
b) Requests for B or higher grade prerequisites will continue to be reviewed by the Undergraduate Council’s Academic Programs Subcommittee, per the current procedure.
c) When a department curriculum committee approves a C-grade prerequisite for a required course, a modification request with academic justification will be submitted through the Course Management System (CMS). As with any request submitted through the CMS, a modification of a grade prerequisite will be routed through and approved by the Unit Curriculum Committee, the College Curriculum Committee, the departments cross-listing that course, the University-wide General Education Committee (if appropriate), and UA Curricular Affairs.
d) For transparency in course sequences offered by a department, any C-grade prerequisites will be added to the second course in a sequence as an enrollment
requirement in the Course Catalog. Those grade prerequisites currently appear with enrollment information only in the UAccess Class Search.

e) Departments offering courses with previously approved C-grade prerequisites, as listed in the UAccess Class Search, need take no further action. When system modifications are completed, those grade prerequisites will appear in the Course Catalog as well.

f) Course grade prerequisites should also be noted on the 2017-18 Academic Advisement Reports. Asterisks should designate courses with grade prerequisites, along with a footnote of explanation.

g) “Related Guidelines” at the bottom of the Grades and Grading System Policy site will include a link to the memo announcing this policy change; the memo will list these Management procedures.

Approvals:
Undergraduate Council: 12/6/16
Graduate Council: N/A
Academic Deans: 12/20/16
Administrative Review: 1/30/17
FS: