


MEMORANDUM

TO: WSU Faculty Senators
FROM: Gary Pollack, Dean 
DATE: February 8, 2019
RE: Course grading changes

On December 21, 2018, our faculty passed the following changes:

1. Pharmaceutics (PharDSci 519), Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (Pharmacy 513, 533, 543, 553, 563), Special Problems (Pharmacy 499 and PharDSci 499) and Special Projects (Pharmacy 599 and PharDSci 599) courses will be graded S/F, effective fall 2019.
2. PharDSci/Pharmacy 499/599 courses will be made variable credit, 1-4 credits max repeat up to 12, effective fall 2019.

The faculty considered the following points in making this decision:

- Changing select courses to S/F from H/S/F:
Since moving to an H/S/F model fall 2013, courses have been identified where it was difficult to fairly and equitably assign a grade of honors, based on individual course outcomes and assessment structures. Courses in this category include Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE), Special Problems (Pharmacy/PharDSci 499), Special Projects (Pharmacy/PharDSci 599), and Pharmaceutics Lab (PharDSci 519).
 - The IPPE courses are designed to allow student pharmacists to have early exposure in pharmacy practice settings. Students engage in entry level clinical activities at a novice competency level and actively observe more skilled practitioners. Assessments are based on basic observable skills and structured independent reflections, making it difficult to fairly assign honors designations.
 - Special Problems and Special Projects courses are utilized to allow course credit to be assigned for research and intellectual inquiry into student driven interest areas. Over the past several years, we identified inconsistencies between faculty grading approaches. Some faculty utilized an H/S/F grading approach and others used S/F. As a college we wanted consistency in the grading model used for all 499 and 599 courses.
 - In PharDSci 519, students are expected to produce high quality sterile and non-sterile work products. The competency bar is set high due to the accuracy required, making it difficult to objectively differentiate students who are exceeding expectations.
- Changing Credit for 599's:
 - The faculty requested increased flexibility when determining the credit assignment for Pharmacy and PharDSci 599 courses to align with the complexity and expectation of each special project. Faculty will use the university guideline for credit assignment so one credit is given for every 45 hours of work completed.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need additional information.