

A Summary of the Changes in the new Grading, Notations and Academic Engagement Policy

Last spring, the BOR approved a new Grading, Notations and Academic Engagement Policy that requires faculty to capture student engagement (or lack of engagement) prior to census each semester beginning in Fall 2020. This policy shall be used to meet the standards of determining Title IV eligibility for financial aid students, resulting in a more accurate reporting of student enrollment at census.

Academic Engagement

CT Community College students are expected to actively engage in learning. The Grading, Notations and Academic Engagement policy requires that students who do NOT begin participation within the first two weeks of the start of each class must be dropped from the class(es) in which there is no evidence of active participation.

Academic engagement includes, but is not limited to:

- Attending a class where there is an opportunity for direct interaction between the instructor and students
- Submitting an assignment or taking an exam
- Engaging in an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
- Participating in an online discussion about the course material
- Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course

Academic engagement does not include:

- Logging into an online class without active participation – logging into Blackboard or other publisher systems alone doesn't count as active participation.
- Participating in academic counseling or advising

The Role of Faculty

- CT Community College Faculty/ Instructors will determine whether academic engagement has occurred.
- Using the Faculty Midterm Grade Worksheet, instructors must report the engagement of each student on the class roster by the established deadlines. A notation of "H" indicates active engagement. A notation of "NP" indicates "Never Participated."

The Impact for Students

- Federal guidelines prohibit the college from disbursing funds if faculty fail to confirm students have begun to engage in coursework. Therefore, *if faculty do not submit the midterm grade sheet by the date assigned, it is possible students in the course section will not receive their financial aid until this is complete.*

- Students without evidence of active participation shall be dropped from each class where instructors have indicated lack of engagement via the “NP” notation. All tuition and fees shall be dropped from the applicable courses as well. These courses will not display on student transcripts.
- Students who are dropped from class(es) are not permitted to attend those courses or access the learning management system for the applicable course(s).