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SR-92-93-(127)273(ASCR)

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## Recommended Citation

Marshall University, "SR-92-93-(127)273(ASCR)" (1993). Recommendations. 1168.  $http://mds.marshall.edu/fs\_recommendations/1168$ 

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## ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND CURRICULA REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

## SR-92-93-(127)273(ASCR)

The current withdrawal policy was approved by the Faculty Senate and by the President on May 16, 1991 [SR-90-91-(144)296(ASCR)]. This policy was to be examined after a two-year trial period. Based on input from students, faculty and the administration, the Academic Standards and Curricula Review Committee recommends that the withdrawal policy be continued on a permanent basis with the following changes in the current (trial) policy.

 Repeal the policy regarding attendance during the first week of class, but retain "The elimination of the IW (Irregular Withdrawal) grade." New Policy: The IW grade is to be eliminated.

RATIONALE: Under the current policy faculty were asked to take attendance during the first week of classes and report it to the Registrar. Faculty compliance with this policy was not good. Students were or were not dropped for non-attendance depending upon the individual instructor. Many students assumed they would be dropped if they did not attend during the first week of class and were surprised to receive "F" grade(s) as a result of instructors' lack of compliance with the policy. This caused many problems for associate deans and the Registrar's office. The University attendance policy allows the instructor to establish attendance standards for each class. Therefore, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to enforce faculty participation in the Withdrawal Policy.

2. Retain the first section of policy but repeal the section regarding "designated classes."

**NEW POLICY:** Students may withdraw from INDIVIDUAL classes or from the University during the first 50% of classes with a "W." <u>A SPECIFIC DATE WILL BE DICTATED BY THE CALENDAR</u>. Faculty members are responsible for ensuring that students are informed of their grade to date by mid-term.

RATIONALE: The current policy requires student(s) to make a commitment to classes in which they are enrolled, but allows enough time to determine if withdrawal is a viable alternative. The "designated classes" section has never been enacted, thus it is not applicable and should be deleted.

3. Retain the policy as is, but delete sentence regarding "designated classes."

NEW POLICY: Students may withdraw from individual classes or from the University with a "WP" or a "WF" grade during weeks 9-12 (or before the final 25% of a course). AS IN THE CASE OF SECTION II. THE SPECIFIC DATE WILL BE DICTATED BY THE CALENDAR. After this period, during weeks 13-15, students CANNOT withdraw from individual classes, but may withdraw from the university as late as the final day of classes with the "WP" or "WF" grade acquired at that point.

RATIONALE: Marshall University's past withdrawal policies have resulted in many students never making a commitment to some of the classes in which they enroll. Some students, although passing, now withdraw from individual classes as late as the final week of classes. During the Fall and Spring semesters, 1980-1990, 3,415 "WP" grades were recorded. There were only 382 "WF" grades recorded. Since many of these students were doing passing work when they withdrew, they could have completed their courses. Most universities do not allow students to withdraw from individual classes during the last week or weeks of a course. The Director of Admissions and Records at WVU conducted a survey of the withdrawal policies of nine schools - WVU, University of Pittsburgh, Virginia Tech, Pennsylvania State University, University of Maryland, George Mason University, Rutgers University, James Madison, and Marshall University. Only Marshall University had a policy that allowed students to withdraw from INDIVIDUAL classes without permission during the last week of classes. Most of these schools do not allow irregular withdrawals after a certain date under any circumstances.

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