Policies

Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts Grievance Procedures

The dynamic and creative studio culture at the heart of the Sam Fox School strives to be safe and inclusive for all members of our community. Our faculty, staff, and students join together in their commitment to creating learning environments of mutuality and respect. When concerns or disagreements arise about conduct, grading, or other matters in the Colleges of Art and Architecture, policies exist for pursuing proper resolution.

Grade Dispute Policy

The Sam Fox School aims to provide each student with a fair assessment of their academic work and studio. Students have the right to dispute their overall course grade (not individual assignments) if they believe that grade does not accurately reflect the quality of their work. A grade dispute must be submitted to the faculty member who assigned the grade within 30 days of receipt of the grade. The Sam Fox School stresses that every effort to resolve such a dispute be made by the faculty and student involved. A student’s eligibility for advancement in sequential course work requires timely resolution of the grade dispute. If the student is a graduation candidate, the dispute process must comply with the Intent to Graduate submission deadlines set forth by the Office of the University Registrar or else the degree conferral will be delayed by one semester or until resolved.

In general, the dispute process will occur and be resolved as follows:

1. The student presents their question about the grade in writing to the faculty member and clearly states the reasons for questioning the grade.
2. The faculty member and the student review the grading procedures as stated in syllabus and discuss the determining factors of the student’s grade.
3. If the case is not resolved between the student and the faculty member, the student may put forth their complaint in writing with supporting evidence to the chair* of the academic program, with a copy given to the faculty member involved with the dispute. The student should provide all of the course syllabus and materials relevant to the assigned grade within two weeks of the complaint. If a conflict of interest exists between the student and the chair (e.g., the chair is teaching the course), the case will be referred to another chair in the Sam Fox School or to the director of the college.
4. The chair* of the academic program will review the materials. The chair will resolve the dispute by working with the faculty member and the student to arrive at a determination.

* In the case of the MFA program, the role of chair is fulfilled by the director of the Graduate School of Art.

Integrity and Ethical Conduct

Washington University and Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts are committed to the highest ethical and professional standards of conduct and consider these to be integral to their mission of the promotion of learning. To maintain these standards, the university relies on each community member’s ethical behavior, honesty, integrity, and good judgment. Each community member should demonstrate respect for the rights of others, and each community member is accountable for their own actions. Washington University policies state that members of the university community can expect to be free from discrimination and harassment. Students, faculty, staff, and outside organizations working on campus are required to abide by specific policies prohibiting harassment, which are posted on the Compliance and Policies (https://wustl.edu/about/compliance-policies) page of the university’s website. Should a situation arise in which a member of our community believes they have cause to file a grievance, there are two categories of grievance to consider: academic and non-academic. Academic grievances can either be when a student challenges a course grade or when a fellow student or faculty member feels a matter of academic integrity is at issue. Student grievances filed to challenge a grade that the student feels has been given incorrectly must follow the procedures outlined in the Grade Dispute Policy above. Academic integrity grievances are made when a faculty member or fellow student feels a student has compromised the environment of honesty and ethics in the school. Academic integrity infractions follow the procedures laid out in the Sam Fox School and University policies (https://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/node/5766) and are managed in the Sam Fox School by the Academic Integrity Officer, Assistant Dean Cris Baldwin. Please refer to Washington University’s Academic Integrity Statement (https://studentconduct.wustl.edu/academic-integrity) for additional information.

Non-Academic Concerns

If a member of our academic community feels that the ethical and safe environment of the classroom has been compromised, for whatever reason, they may seek guidance through the school’s Faculty-Student Mediator, Professor Jeff Pike. Students may also consult Washington University’s Grievance Policy and Procedures for Allegations by Undergraduate Students Against Faculty (https://wustl.edu/about/compliance-policies/governance/grievance-policy-allegations-undergraduate-students-against-faculty). In addition, University Resources available for support include the following:

- Title IX (https://titleix.wustl.edu) (for issues related to discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual violence)
- Mental health concerns (https://shs.wustl.edu/MentalHealth/Pages/default.aspx) (Habif Health and Wellness Center)
Drug and alcohol concerns (https://shs.wustl.edu/HealthAndWellness/HealthTopics/Pages/Substance-Abuse.aspx) (Habif Health and Wellness Center)

Immediate physical/mental health concerns (https://police.wustl.edu/Pages/Home.aspx) (Washington University Police Department)

Center for Diversity & Inclusion (https://diversityinclusion.wustl.edu/brss) (for issues related to bias, prejudice, or discrimination)

### Academic Integrity

Students and members of the faculty of the university have an obligation to uphold the highest standards of scholarship. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. When a student has violated the integrity of the academic community, an instructor may recommend that the student be brought before the Committee on Academic Integrity. A list of university policies can be found on the website of the University Registrar (http://registrar.wustl.edu/university-policy-information).

### Attendance

Regular attendance at all classes and studio meetings is expected of each student. If, in the opinion of the instructor, any student has accumulated absences to such an extent as to preclude the possibility of satisfying the course requirements, the student's registration in that course will be canceled, subject to the approval of the director.

### Units and Grades

A unit is the amount of credit given for one hour of lecture or up to three hours of studio work per week for one semester. All students in the College of Architecture may take one nonrequired course on a pass/fail basis each semester. All students in the Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design may select one of the following two grading options as they register for each semester: (1) the grade option or (2) the pass/fail option. Under the grade option, a student may take one nonrequired course on a pass/fail basis. If the pass/fail option is chosen, all courses must be taken pass/fail.

Symbols used for both options have the following meanings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Points per Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
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<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P#</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F#</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Course work incomplete *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Withdrawal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Repeat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Successful audit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>Unsuccessful audit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>No grade submitted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This grade signifies that the student has not completed part of the work for a semester (exclusive of examinations) but has satisfactorily completed the rest of the work. A student must remove a grade of I as discussed in “Incomplete Grades” below.

Pluses and minuses are used. Each grade earned for a course taken for credit receives a specified number of grade points, and these points are affected by plus and minus grades as well.

Undergraduate students in architecture must complete all required courses with a grade of C- or better.

In addition to grading under either the regular grade option or the pass/fail option, instructors teaching architectural design courses complete an evaluation form for each student; a copy is made available to the student, and the original is filed in the student's folder in the Office of the Director.

### Auditing a Course

With prior approval from their academic adviser, students may audit an elective course.

### Pass/Fail Option

Students may take one nonrequired course on a pass/fail basis each semester.

### Incomplete Grades

Incomplete marks in all architectural design courses from the 100 through the 600 level must be removed by the first day of classes of the following semester. Failure to remove the incomplete will prevent the student from continuing in another architectural design course.

In all other courses, the grade of I must be removed no later than the last day of classes of the next full semester. Upon failure to make up an I within the next semester, the student will automatically receive an F in the course unless explicitly excused by the director. An F grade that is so received may not be changed. Students will not be allowed to continue in courses that require prerequisites if the prerequisite has an incomplete grade. A student who carries more than 9 units of incomplete work may be declared ineligible to re-enroll.
F grades for a semester may be changed only through the last day of classes of the following semester and then only in extraordinary circumstances. The director will approve no changes of F grades after this interval.

**Repeating a Course**

When a student retakes a course in which a passing grade has been received, both enrollments will show on the transcript. If the second grade is equivalent to or better than the first grade, the first grade may be changed to R, indicating the re-enrollment upon request of the student and with department approval. If the second grade is lower, both grades will stand. Credit toward the degree will be allowed for only one of the enrollments. When a student retakes a course in which an F has been received, both enrollments for the course will appear on the transcript. If a passing grade is received in the second enrollment, the first enrollment may be changed to R, indicating the re-enrollment upon request of the student and with the approval of the director.

**Independent Study**

Opportunities for independent study are available to all graduate and undergraduate students. Registration in an independent study course requires sponsorship by an instructor and permission of the director. A maximum of 5 units (graduate students), 3 units (juniors and seniors), and 1 unit (first-year students and sophomores) may be taken per semester. Independent study courses cannot replace architectural design studios or other required courses. An independent study proposal sheet approved by a faculty sponsor must be submitted to the Office of the Director at registration time.

**Study Abroad**

Students have an opportunity to study in Florence, Italy, for a semester or over the summer term. These programs are based on a directed curriculum of urban and building analysis and appreciation. For more information, visit the Study Abroad Programs (PDF) (http://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/files/Study %20Abroad%20Policy-SFS%20Programs-9-11-15_fin.pdf) on our website.

Architecture students are eligible to participate in the university’s study abroad programs.

**Summer School**

The College of Architecture offers a limited number of courses during the summer, primarily ARCH 447A Structures I and ARCH 448A Structures II.

**Minimum and Maximum Loads**

First-year and sophomore undergraduates will normally enroll in either 15 or 16 units each semester, although enrollment in up to 18 units is possible. Juniors and seniors in the architecture degree programs are strongly recommended to enroll in no more than 16.5 units each semester in order to maintain focus on the design studio and major requirements. This guideline can only be waived by the director or undergraduate program chair. The normal load for graduate students is a maximum of 16 units each semester.

An enrollment above 21 units will be charged at the established university rate per hour of the additional credits and must be approved by the director or undergraduate program chair of the College of Architecture.

Refer to the section of this Bulletin that covers tuition and fees (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/tuition) for both the annual tuition rate and the per credit hour breakdown applicable to the College of Architecture.

Partial load enrollment is possible when circumstances warrant it and requires the permission of the director.

Students are expected to proceed at a pace that enables them to finish their degree within the appropriate time limit. For undergraduates, this is usually eight semesters. Exceptions to these minimum standards may be granted only with the written consent of an academic adviser, the associate dean of students, or the director.

**Academic Warning, Probation, and Suspension**

A student whose semester grade-point average is below 2.0 (a grade of C) or who fails below a “pace” of 66 2/3 percent (for the number of credits earned divided by the number of credits attempted) will be placed on academic probation. If, after the following semester, the semester GPA is still below 2.0 or the if pace is below 66 2/3 percent, the student may be ineligible for normal advancement or may be suspended. Although the College of Architecture desires to give all students the opportunity to prove themselves, it is not in the best interest of either the student or the college to permit students to continue indefinitely in educational programs in which they are not producing satisfactory results.

The probation status serves as a warning that, unless the quality of work improves, the student may be subject to dismissal because of academic deficiency. A student dismissed for academic deficiency will not be eligible for readmission until they have demonstrated, under the conditions set for each individual case, their ability to do satisfactory work.

A student will be removed from academic probation when their cumulative GPA is above 2.0 and they are meeting the pace of 66 2/3 percent for satisfactory academic progress.

In support of the student, the Sam Fox School Registrar's Office will work with the student to develop a plan for success. In order to succeed, the student must understand the causes of their current situation, identify what needs to change, and implement and review the plan.
Withdrawal Date | Refund
--- | ---
Within 1st or 2nd week of classes | 100%
Within 3rd or 4th week of classes | 80%
Within 5th or 6th week of classes | 60%
Within 7th or 8th week of classes | 50%
Within 9th or 10th week of classes | 40%
After 10th week of classes | 0%

**Transfer Credit**

Architecture students must complete the required Calculus I and Physics courses at Washington University with a grade of C- or better unless the student has received Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) credit for these courses. Students wishing to transfer credit for other courses completed at another institution must bring a full catalog description of the course(s) to the Sam Fox School Registrar’s Office for preapproval. Upon receipt of an official transcript indicating a grade of C or better, courses will be considered for transfer. Grades for transfer courses will not appear on the student’s Washington University record and will not figure into the student’s GPA. College courses taken to earn credit for high school graduation will not be considered for transfer. Washington University does not transfer credits for courses taken online. No transfer credit will be accepted for courses taken while a student is suspended from Washington University for violations of the University Student Judicial Code or Academic Integrity policy.

**Intent to Graduate**

Every candidate for a degree is required to file an Intent to Graduate in WebSTAC in order to participate in Commencement exercises. The deadlines for filing can be found on the University Registrar website (http://registrar.wustl.edu/student-records/graduation/intent-to-graduate). A student must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 to graduate.

**Retention of Student Work**

The College of Architecture and the Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design reserve the right to retain any student work submitted for course credit. Normally this work will be returned to the student at the end of the semester, except that which has been retained for publications, exhibitions, or
accreditation reviews. It is highly recommended that students photographically reproduce or electronically store their work in order to keep a record of their work.