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**Administrative Procedure**  
Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs

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**AP 4231 GRADE CHANGES**

**References:**

Education Code Sections 76224 and 76232;  
Title 5 Section 55025

**Changing Grades**

The instructor of the course shall determine the grade to be awarded to each student.

The determination of the student's grade by the instructor is final in the absence of mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetence. "Mistake" may include, but is not limited to, errors made by an instructor in calculating a student's grade and clerical errors. "Fraud" may include, but is not limited to, inaccurate recording or change of a grade by any person who gains access to grade records without authorization. "Bad Faith" may include, but is not limited to, an intentional act of dishonesty, act by not fulfilling legal or contractual obligations, misleading another, entering into an agreement without the intention or means to fulfill it, or violating basic standards of honesty in dealing with others. "Incompetence" may include, but is not limited to, the lack of requisite skills to perform a given task, not possessing the requisite skills to perform a given task.

The removal or change of an incorrect grade from a student's record shall only be done pursuant to Education Code Section 76232 or by an alternative method that ensures that each student shall be afforded an objective and reasonable review of the requested grade change.

If the procedure requires that a student first request a grade change from the instructor, provisions shall be made to allow another faculty member to substitute for the instructor in the following circumstances: if 1) the student has filed a discrimination complaint and there is an administrative determination finding probable cause; or 2) if the instructor is not available, or where, if the instructor is not available or 3) where the District determines that it is possible that there may have been gross misconduct by the original instructor.

In the case of fraud, bad faith, or incompetence, the final determination concerning removal or change of grade will be made by the ***Vice President of Academic Affairs***.

In all cases **listed above**, the instructor who first awarded the grade will be given written notice of the change.

The College shall consider a request for change of grade where the timely request for change is necessitated as a remedy for discrimination on the basis of disability pursuant to Section 504 and Title II, including with respect to the denial of an approved accommodation/modification. *(per current procedure)*

### **Security of Grade Records**

The District shall implement security measures for student records that assure no person may obtain access to student grade records without proper authorization. These measures shall be installed as part of any computerized grade data storage system.

The measures implemented by the District shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, password protection for all student grade data bases, locking mechanisms for computer stations from which student grade data bases can be viewed, and strict limits on the number of persons who are authorized to change student grades.

Persons authorized to change grades shall be designated by the **[Associate Dean of Admissions and Records.]** No more than five District employees may be authorized to change student grades. Only regular full-time employees of the District may be authorized to change grades. Student workers shall not have access to grade records, and student workers may not change grades at any time.

Any person who discovers that grades have been changed by someone other than the persons authorized to do so shall notify the **[Associate Dean of Admissions and Records]** immediately. The **[Associate Dean of Admissions and Records]** shall immediately take steps to lock the grade storage system entirely while an investigation is conducted.

If any student's grade record is found to have been changed without proper authorization, the District will notify 1) the student; 2) the instructor who originally awarded the grade; 3) any educational institution to which the student has transferred; 4) the accreditation agency; and 5) appropriate local law enforcement authorities.

Whenever a grade is changed for any reason, corrected transcripts will be sent to any educational institution to which a student has transferred.

Any student or employee who is found to have gained access to grade recording systems without proper authorization, or who is found to have changed any grade without proper authority to do so, shall be subject to discipline in accordance with District policies and procedures.

Any person who is found to have gained access to grade recording systems without proper authorization, or who is found to have changed any grade without proper authority to do so, shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the college where the incident occurred.

A grade may only be changed within two (2) calendar years of being awarded. (per current form)

Request for Change of Grade forms may not be given directly to students. (per current form)

**NOTE:** The District may insert procedures related to processes for seeking grade changes, time limits, if any, and appeals Suggested procedures for doing so are contained in AP 5530 titled Student Grievance Procedures.

Also see BP 3310 Records Retention and Destruction and BP/AP 5040 Student Records

Also see BP/AP 3310 Records Retention and Destruction, **AP 5530 Student Rights and Grievances**, as well as BP/AP 5040 Student Records, Directory Information, and Privacy.

**NOTE:** The **red ink** signifies language that is **legally required** and recommended by the Policy & Procedure Service and its legal counsel (Liebert Cassidy Whitmore). The Policy & Procedure Service issued legal updates to this procedure in August 2006, August 2007, and February 2008. The language in **blue ink** is included for consideration. The language in **yellow highlighting** is included to draw the reviewers' attention, and this language will be removed upon final approval.