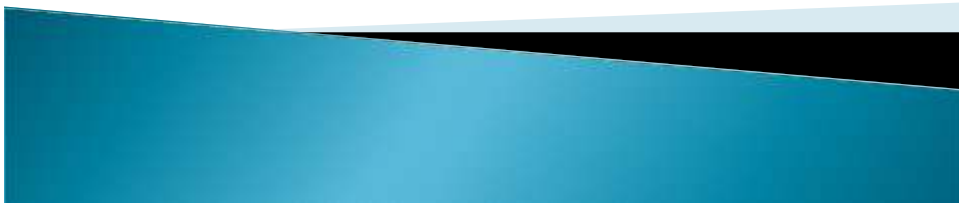


The Extension Grade: New Uses for an Old Policy

August 14, 2009
John Brooks
University College



Extension Grade: Definition

- ▶ Grade not calculated in GPA
- ▶ Conditions
 - Successful completion of Extension Grade contract
 - Re-enrollment in same course next semester
- ▶ Effect: “Extension” of time needed to earn a good grade (two semesters rather than one)



The Extension Grade: History

- ▶ Pre-1996: “R” (Recycle) Grade
 - For students contracted with Student Support Services
- ▶ Extension Grade introduced in 1996–1998 Catalog
 - Limited to selected first-year courses: ENGL 110–120, MATH 121–124, PHIL 110, etc.
- ▶ Used primarily by
 - MATH 121, 123
 - Student Support Services



Extension Grade Extension

- ▶ 2009–2010 Catalog
- ▶ “any course in which the university provides a structured program of academic support”
 - E.g., Supplemental Instruction



FSU 2.0

- ▶ Beginning Fall 2009, all students must maintain a cumulative GPA ≥ 2.0
 - 1st semester cum. GPA below 2.0: Probation
 - 2nd consecutive semester cum. GPA below 2.0: Suspension
- ▶ Old policy
 - 1–29 attempted hours: 1.5 GPA
 - 30–59 attempted hours: 1.8
 - 60+ attempted hours: 2.0

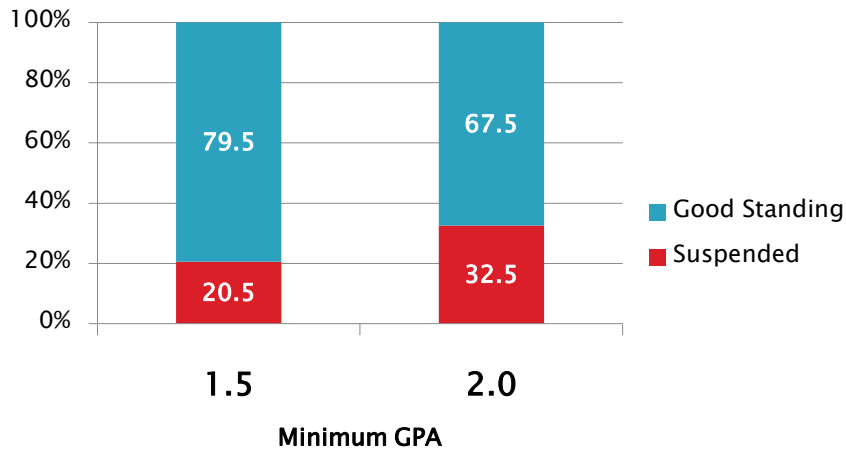


FSU 2.0

- ▶ Beginning Fall 2009, students can withdraw from a maximum of 5 courses *during their entire undergraduate career*
 - WU does not count
- ▶ Old policy: Ws unlimited
- ▶ Ability to protect GPA by withdrawing limited
- ▶ Had this been in effect in Spring 2009 (and nothing else had changed), would have increased the number of first-year students suspended (next slide).



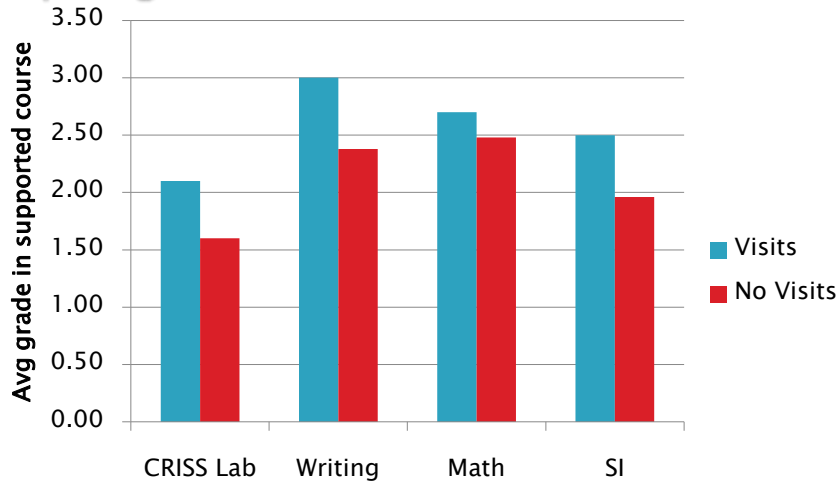
FSU 2.0: Effect on 2008 Cohort



FSU 2.0 and First-Year Students

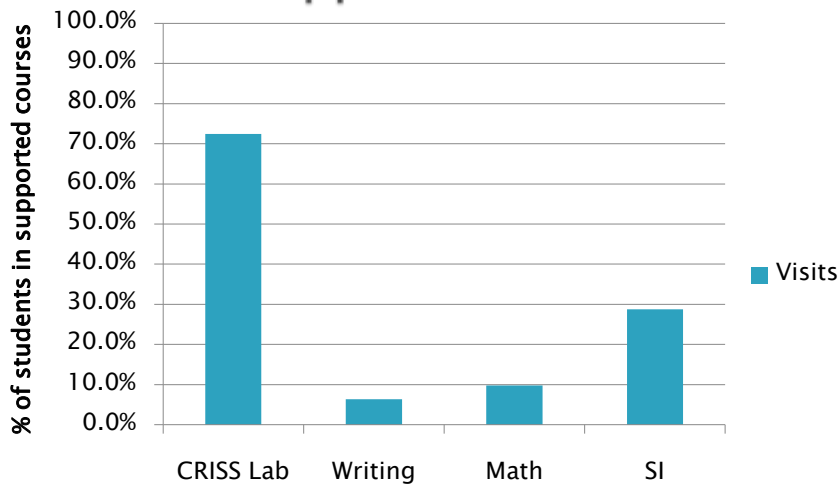
- ▶ Engage students early
 - Reading Club
 - Learning Communities
- ▶ Identify problems early
 - Interim grades
- ▶ Intervene effectively
 - Advisement
 - Study Skills
 - Academic Support

Academic Support Visits and Grades (Spring 2009)



Academic Support (University College Learning Center)

Percentage of Students using Academic Support



Academic Support (University College Learning Center)

Academic Support Works, IF students use it!

- ▶ CRISS Lab
 - Built in to class schedule
 - Built in to syllabus
 - Regular reporting from lab to Freshman Seminar instructors



Extension Grade Rewards Good Behavior

- ▶ Regular class attendance
- ▶ Completion of assignments
- ▶ Contract to attend academic support (at least weekly)
- ▶ If student fulfills contract, Extension Grade usually not needed
- ▶ If student fulfills contract and still needs the Extension Grade, GPA is protected while retaking course
 - MAY AVOID THE FIRST SEMESTER BELOW 2.0



Extension Grade Example

Course	Cr	Grd	Pts	No Ex		Ex	Ex	
				Q Hrs	Q Pts		Q Hrs	Q Pts
UNIV 101	1	B	3	1	3		1	3
ENGL 110	3	D	1	3	3		3	3
HUMN 211	3	C	2	3	6		3	6
HIST 110	3	B	3	3	9		3	9
MATH 121	3	F	0	3	0	Ex	0	0
Total	13		9	13	21		10	21
GPA (QPts/QHrs)					1.6			2.1
				No Ex			Ex	



“Structured Program of Academic Support”

- ▶ University academic support program
 - Student Support Services
 - University College Learning Center
 - Writing
 - Math
 - Supplemental Instruction
 - CSPER
- ▶ Instructor-supervised academic support
 - Support lab (e.g., MATH 121, 123)
 - Tutoring
- ▶ Online tutoring: Smarthinking



Extension Grade Contract

- ▶ No later than fifth week of semester
 - As soon as possible
- ▶ Course and section
- ▶ Instructor and student
- ▶ Nature and duration of support
- ▶ Individual or office verifying completion of academic support
- ▶ Registration with University College
- ▶ At least 10 hours of academic support
- ▶ Must re-enroll in course in the next semester



Fayetteville State University Extension Grade Contract

Student's Name: _____ ID: _____

Semester/Year: _____

CourseID: _____ Instructor: _____

Academic Support Unit: _____

I understand each of the following provisions of the Extension grade policy:

1. I must attend the academic support sessions and labs for my course regularly. I must attend at least ____ academic support sessions (no more than one per week will count toward the Extension Grade).
2. I must attend class regularly and complete all assignments.
3. If I fulfill all eligibility requirements indicated above, and earn a grade of less than C, a grade of Extension will be assigned to me for the course(s). The Extension grade permits me an extension of time to earn a satisfactory grade in the course(s). Extension grades will not be included in the calculation of my Grade Point Average.
4. Any course in which I earn an Extension grade will be included in the calculation of total hours attempted for purposes of determining whether I must pay the tuition surcharge. It will also count as attempted hours in the calculation of financial aid eligibility.
5. If I earn an Extension grade in the course(s) indicated above, I am required to re-enroll in the class in the next semester that I am enrolled at Fayetteville State University and that the course is offered (first opportunity).



6. If I fail to enroll in the course at the first opportunity, the Extension grade will revert back to the original grade, which will be calculated in my GPA.

7. I may earn an Extension grade only once per course.

8. I am not eligible for a course repeat grade in the Extension course.

9. Instructor Requirement: _____

10. Instructor Requirement: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Student

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Instructor

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Representative of Academic Support Unit

This completed form will be retained by the instructor, the student, and the Academic Support Unit. The instructor will register the contract with University College. At the end of the term, the Academic Support Unit will send the instructor an Extension Grade Report indicating whether the student has fulfilled the academic support terms of this contract. The instructor will determine whether the student has met the class requirements and is eligible for the Extension grade. The instructor will enter the final grade in Banner and complete the Extension Grade Completion Survey, which will be forwarded to the Registrar.

The student above has satisfied the academic support requirements for the course indicated.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Representative of Academic Support Unit

Copies: Academic Support Unit, Student

Supply and Demand

- ▶ No limit: All students in supported sections could have contracts
 - Instructor-supervised labs (e.g., MATH 123)
 - Supplemental Instruction
- ▶ Limited
 - Student Support Services: Eligibility requirements, usually recruited as freshmen
 - University College Learning Center:
 - Number of writing tutors: 6
 - Undergrad student enrollments: 24,000
 - Potential Ex contracts per tutor: 4,000
 - **Academic Support Unit must sign contract**

Extension Grade Reporting

- ▶ Purpose
 - Accountability: Record of contracts
 - Assessment: Effectiveness
- ▶ Mechanics
 - **Registration Survey:** Week 6
 - Report to instructors, chairs, deans, academic support units
 - **Completion Survey:** Week 15
 - Sent to Registrar as check on contracts



Resources

- ▶ Catalog Policy:
<http://catalog.uncfsu.edu/ug/academicregulations/extensiongradepolicy.htm>
- ▶ Campus Academic Support Resources:
<http://www.uncfsu.edu/advisement/success/campusresources.htm>
- ▶ Extension Grade form:
<http://www.uncfsu.edu/learningcenter/extension>

