

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

S.76-158

To SENATE

From Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

Change in grading system - Criminology  
Subject 360-5, 460-5, 465-5 (Criminology  
Field Practice)

Date 18th November, 1976

Action taken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies of November 16, 1976 gives rise to the following motion:

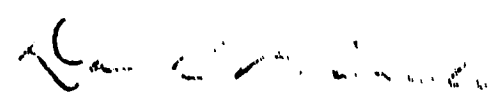
### MOTION

That Senate approve, and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, the application of a PASS (P)/WITHDRAWN(W) grading system in Crim.360-5 Field Practice 1, Crim.460-5 Field Practice 2, and Crim.465-5 Field Practice 3, as set forth in S.76-158.

Note - The recommendation is to apply a grading system of Pass (P) or Withdrawn (W) as presently applied in Education 401, 402, 405, and 406, and as approved for Clinical Chemistry 397, 398 and 399.

The report of the SCUS Sub-Committee on grading (currently before SCUS) includes the recommendation that the designation "W" be retained with the following terms:

The designation "W" will be given when a student withdraws (or is withdrawn) after the normal course drop period from a course graded on a pass (P) or withdrawn (W) basis. This form of grading is normally used in courses of the practicum type in which a student is working with human subjects, eg, Education, Criminology ....

  
Daniel Birch

DB/cp

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

SCUS 76-44  
(edited to Nov. 16/76)

To: Mr. H. D. Nagel, Director,

From: J. Blanchet, Secretary,

Secretariat Services, Registrar's Office.

Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

Subject: Proposal for a Pass/Withdraw system of evaluation for

Date: October 27/76.

Criminology Field Practice.  
I.S.C. 76-32.

Attached is a proposal for a Pass/Withdraw method of evaluation for Criminology Field Practice. This proposal was reviewed by the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee at a meeting held on September 29/76, and approved pending receipt of further documentation. As the requested documentation has been received and is attached, would you please place this item on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.

Attachments.

J. Blanchet

Registrar's Comment - Currently Field Practice involves CRIM 360-5, 460-5, 465-5

The basic request is to apply a grading system of P, W as pertains to EDUC 401/402, 405, 406 and approved for Clinical Chemistry 397, 398, 399; - e.g.

**Grades of P and W**

Students enrolled in Education 401, 402 and 405 are graded PASS (P) or WITHDRAWN (W). The grades of P and W have no numerical equivalent and do not affect either Semester Grade Point Average or Cumulative Grade Point Average.

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

o Janet Blanchet, Sec., Undergraduate  
Curriculum Committee, Faculty of Inter-  
Disciplinary Studies  
Subject Further to our memo of Sept. 14/76 re:  
Evaluation for Field Practice.

From Deanna Buckley, Coordinator of  
Field Practice, Dept. of Criminology  
Date September 30, 1976.

Further to the criteria of evaluation in the Criminology Field Practice programme, we would like to emphasize the following points in support of a Pass/Withdraw system.

As you are aware, the Pass/Fail approach involves the assignment of a pass or fail judgement upon completion of the practicum period, whereas the Pass/Withdraw system allows voluntary or advised withdrawal with impunity up to a given date.

We feel that early termination of internship when indicated has the advantage of eliminating non functional expenditure of resources and possible hardship for prolonged periods. It should be kept in mind, as we have indicated earlier, that this training programme has no pure academic goals as such, but is designed, among other things, to determine the suitability of the student and to allow the student to judge this himself or herself. In this light, it seems that judgements involving failure are inappropriate and misleading since we aim to establish suitability and personal preference of the individual. For this reason, it is also advisable that withdrawal would be suggested by the supervisory staff on location and at the departmental level as well as by the student's own free choice.

Furthermore, it should be emphasized that judgements advocating withdrawal are not arbitrary, but involve a committee action; the committee, composed of both departmental staff and field supervisory staff, shall also deliberate and advise on cases where students wish to withdraw voluntarily and for reasons not connected with performance in the field setting. A further safeguard against arbitrary judgements rests in the availability of appeal mechanisms; this appeal procedure is identical to the standard procedure presently in effect. In addition, students who have withdrawn under departmental advice or on their own accord, are eligible to revision prior to the subsequent academic trimester. That is, applications for reentry to the field practice programme are considered by the committee without prejudice.

In consulting with the Department of Education, it would appear that their decision to have a Pass/Withdraw system of evaluation was based on similar perceptions of a field practicum programme.

I hope that these points appear as relevant to you as they seem to us. As you can see, they are based on the assumption that our purpose is best served if we prevent a confusion between academic assessment and optimal professional exposure in an applied setting.

Attached is a list of specific procedures, definitions, etc.

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Definitions:

1. A grade of P (Pass) would be assigned to a student who has successfully completed the requirements of the course and who has also demonstrated suitability with respect to specified evaluative criteria.
2. A grade of W (Withdraw) would be assigned in any of the following instances under the operating principles described below.

After the first nine weeks of the semester -

- a) the student wished to withdraw from the programme;
- b) the student is requested to withdraw because it is evident on the basis of specific evaluative criteria, that he/she has not demonstrated suitability;
- c) the student is requested to withdraw because of serious violations of the conditions of the field practicum (e.g. breach of confidentiality).

Operating Principles:

1. A student can withdraw or be asked to withdraw from the course without academic penalty within the first nine (9) weeks of the start of the semester, without grade on transcript.
2. If a student withdraws or is asked to withdraw from the course after this period, except as a result of extenuating circumstances, he/she would be assigned a grade of W (Withdraw).
3. If a student withdraws from the course after the nine week period due to substantiated extenuating circumstances, he/she will receive no grade on his/her transcript.
4. In terms of refunds, these will be dealt with following normal university procedures.
5. Request to a student to withdraw would be made on the basis of specific behavioural evidence.
6. Every student is ensured the right to appeal after a request to withdraw. The appeal procedure used will be identical to the standard procedure presently in effect at this university.
7. Students who have withdrawn under departmental advice or on their own accord may apply for re-entry to the programme at a later date. These applications will be considered by the departmental committee without prejudice.

Further Definition of Terms

Re: the terms "behavioural evidence" and "on the basis of specific evaluative criteria" - the Department of Criminology will be supplying the Field Supervisors with a detailed evaluation form which refers specifically to such categories/criteria as: "demonstrated ability to work and relate constructively with staff...public...client system"; "demonstrated ability to handle stressful situations"; "professional behaviour - confidentiality, discretion, ethical behaviour"; etc.

Re: the term "extenuating circumstances" - this would refer to a major illness which is substantiated by a doctor's certificate (medical grounds) or substantiated compassionate grounds.

Oct 7/76

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OCT 29 1976  
STRAP'S OFFICE  
MAIL DESK

Mrs. Blanchet -

Here is the additional  
information you require  
re: P/W proposal for  
Criminology Field Practice

- Keanna Buckley



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
FACULTY OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY 4305

Dr. Jay Weinkam  
Chairman  
Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee  
c/o Computing Science Program

Sept.]3 1976

Dear Dr. Weinkam

I have enclosed a copy of Ms. D. Buckley's communication to me regarding our field practice grading suggestions. I feel that the rational outlined for a pass/withdraw system is in this instance convincing and I hope that you will find it equally acceptable.

Yours sincerely

Alfred A. Keltner, Ph.D.  
Criminology

Copy to: Mrs. J. Blanchet  
Secretary to the IDSUCC



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SEP 17 1976

I.S.C. 76-32.

TO: Dr. Alfred Keltner, Chairman, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

FROM: Deanna Buckley, Coordinator of Field Practice, Criminology Department

DATE: September 14, 1976.

RE: Proposal for a Pass/Withdraw system of evaluation for the Criminology Field Practice Programme.

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The Department of Criminology requests approval for the following change: that Field Practice (Crim.360-5; Crim.460-5; Crim.465-5) be evaluated on a Pass/Withdraw basis rather than on a letter grade basis.

The Department of Criminology has initiated its Field Practice programme this Fall '76 semester. The purpose of the programme is to give the students an opportunity to synthesize theory and practice in a realistic milieu. The students are expected to complete three semesters in the field (i.e. two days per week) as part of their prerequisites for a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Criminology. Crim.360-5 is comprised of placements in the field of Law Enforcement; Crim.460-5 is comprised of Institutional Corrections placements; and Crim.465-5 is comprised of placements in Community Corrections.

It is important to note that the students will be placed in different settings within each sector of the Criminal Justice System, with each having his/her own field supervisor and each being involved in a unique learning experience. The field supervisors are appointed by the field training agencies and are responsible for coordinating his/her student's experience while at that agency. The supervisors are also responsible for evaluating the student's performance at the training agency based on evaluation criteria given to them by the Department of Criminology.

In terms of evaluation, a rating of A-B-C-D can only be meaningful if:

1. The students' performances can be compared relative to each other; and

2. We can look at the ratings and meaningfully apply them to our own criteria.

Whether a rating system fulfills these two functions is dependent on its level of standardization. In this type of programme, it is impossible to elicit an appropriate level of standardization because:

1. Each field situation is unique and not comparable to other settings;

2. Each student is evaluated by a different judge; therefore, there is no way to achieve a high inter-judge reliability.

Basically, the standard evaluation format goes against the overall philosophy of the practicum system we are setting up; ie. that the students are being removed from theoretical study and are being tempted to learn from practical experience. Our belief is that this can best be achieved by alleviating as much as possible many of the pressures which apply for purely academic endeavors; ie.: the gearing of one's performance purely to attain grades.

We hope to liberate some of the emotional concerns regarding rating and channel them into productive work.

Further, it is evident that for similar reasons, many other types of practicums utilize a Pass/Withdraw system; eg. S.F.U. Dept. of Education practicum programme; the Ontario Clinical Psychologist training programme; etc.

We feel that the Pass/Withdraw system is an important part of trying to optimize our practicum training effect.

The attached Field Practice Manual contains a copy of the evaluation form which the supervisors utilize in evaluating their students. As you note, the student receives an indepth evaluation. In essence, then, this proposal is not oriented to the avoidance of a thorough evaluation, but rather, is suggesting the avoidance of a marking system that could, in this particular instance, detract from the learning process.

Therefore, we strongly urge the acceptance of this proposal. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

We would appreciate your sending this as soon as possible to the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee so that it may be forwarded to S.C.U.S. and to the Senate meeting in November in hope that it may be used in evaluating students at the end of the Fall '76 semester.