



SECTION 6

ACADEMIC POLICIES & REGULATIONS

DEFINITION OF A CREDIT HOUR.....	54
TRANSFERABILITY OF CREDIT AND CREDENTIALS EARNED AT OUR INSTITUTION	54
ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS.....	54
AUDITING COURSES.....	54
ATTENDANCE POLICY.....	54
STUDENT EXTERNSHIPS.....	54
INDEPENDENT STUDY	54
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	55
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: GRADES AND CREDITS	55
PROGRAMMATIC GRADE REQUIREMENTS	56
COURSE RETAKES.....	56
SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP).....	57
APPEAL PROCESS FOR TERMINATION DUE TO UNSATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS	57
RE-START POLICY	57

DEFINITION OF A CREDIT HOUR

A credit hour is the amount of work represented in intended student learning outcomes and the coursework completed, inside and outside of the classroom. One credit hour is equivalent to a minimum of 15 semester hours of lecture/direct faculty instruction and 30 hours of outside-of-class student learning; 30 semester hours of lab/application and 15 hours of outside of class student learning; or 45 semester hours of clinical experience/externship in a course.

Outside study of two hours is expected to support each hour of in-class preparation, as supported by the course syllabus.

TRANSFERABILITY OF CREDIT AND CREDENTIALS EARNED AT OUR INSTITUTION

The transferability of credits you earn at *SJVC* is at the complete discretion of an institution to which you may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the degree or certificate you earn in your program is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. If the credits you earn at this institution are not accepted at the institution to which you seek to transfer, you may be required to repeat all or some of your coursework at that institution. For this reason, you should make certain that your attendance at this institution will meet your educational goals. This may include contacting an institution to which you may seek to transfer after attending *SJVC* to determine if your credits will transfer.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

For a list of the institutions who have agreed to accept credits earned at *SJVC*, please contact the Registrar or refer to the list of Articulation Agreements on the College's website: <http://www.sjvc.edu/admissions/consumer-information/articulation-agreements>

AUDITING COURSES

Generally, *SJVC* does not allow courses to be audited. However, an *SJVC* graduate or current student may audit a course within two years of graduation, with Campus President approval.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Regular class attendance is an integral component in achieving satisfactory grades. When a student has been absent or expects to be absent from class, he/she should call or e-mail the faculty member teaching the course to advise him/her of the reason for the absence.

Students who are absent for fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days (including weekends and holidays) will be terminated from their program of study.

In addition to this policy, certain education programs have additional attendance requirements. For more information concerning specific programmatic attendance requirements, please see a Program Director or Division Manager.

Online Courses

For those students enrolled in a course(s) offered through *SJVC's* Online Division, attendance is counted through participation in one of the following academic activities: posting and/or replying to a discussion forum, submission of a written assignment, or completion of a quiz or exam.

With the exception of the Winter Break, students who are absent for fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days (*including weekends and holidays*) will be terminated from their program of study.

STUDENT EXTERNSHIPS

SJVC offers several programs that include a mandatory externship where the student will complete a specific number of hours in an off-campus teaching/learning facility. (Please see the program's externship course description for the hour requirement.) Externships provide the opportunity for students to apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills in a real-life setting. The externship serves as the final phase of student preparation for entry into their chosen profession. In order to optimize this learning experience, students must successfully complete all program courses and all other graduation requirements prior to entry into their externship.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

The College is aware that certain situations and/or circumstances may arise during the course of a student's education when the student would benefit from participation in independent study. To be eligible for independent study, the following three conditions must exist:

- The student must be able to realistically complete the Course Learning Outcomes off-site;
- The student is maintaining satisfactory academic progress; and
- There is no programmatic attendance policy that would preclude participation in independent study.

Students who meet these eligibility requirements may complete a maximum of 9.0 semester credit hours per program through independent study.

To initiate this process, students must submit a request, via email, to the faculty member teaching the course, explaining the need for the independent study and the requested

duration.¹ The faculty member will develop an Independent Study Plan that will be submitted to the Division Manager or Dean for approval. If the independent study request and corresponding plan are approved, the student, faculty member, and Division Manager or Dean will meet and confirm the details of the Independent Study plan.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The College recognizes that certain situations may arise during the course of a student's education that would require a leave of absence. Students should plan carefully prior to taking a leave of absence and the following process must be completed prior to the beginning of the requested leave date:

- The student will immediately submit a written request for a leave of absence to the Dean of Student Services (or Academic Dean). The request must be signed and dated prior to the requested leave date.
- The Dean will meet with the student to discuss possible alternatives to taking a leave of absence. If it is determined that a leave of absence is in the best interest of the student, he/she, if receiving financial aid, will be required to meet with a Financial Services Advisor to discuss possible financial aid ramifications.
- After these first two steps have been completed, the student will meet with the Dean to discuss issues such as changes to his/her academic schedule, graduation date, etc.

The total combined leave time cannot exceed 180 days in a 12-month period. Exceptions fall under an unapproved leave of absence, which includes leaves requested for jury duty, military reasons, or circumstances covered under the Family Medical Leave Act. An unapproved leave of absence may be granted by *SJVC* and treated as a withdrawal for financial aid purposes. A financial aid refund calculation will be made based on the beginning of the leave of absence.

Students who do not return as scheduled from a leave of absence will be terminated from the College, effective immediately.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: GRADES AND CREDITS

Grades represent the evaluation of a student's achievement of course requirements and learning outcomes. Specifically, grades are based upon scores earned on any number of academic assignments, which may include quizzes or exams, homework assignments, projects, skill performance, professional development, discussion forums, and mid-course and final exams. All scores earned are converted to the percentage of the total score possible within each course and the final course grade will be determined by the percent

range converted to the letter grade shown in the chart below (some programs utilize a different grading system. Please see either the respective Academic Dean, Program Director, or Division Manager for further information).

90-100%	= A	4.0 Grade Points
80-89%	= B	3.0 Grade Points
70-79%	= C	2.0 Grade Points
65-69%	= D	1.0 Grade Points
Below 65%	= F	0.0 Grade Points

Grades of A, B, C, and D*, are considered passing grades and correspond to the definitions of excellent, good, satisfactory, and passing. Students are required to maintain a 2.0 grade point average in order remain in satisfactory academic progress (for more information, please refer to the College's policy on **Satisfactory Academic Progress**). *Varies by program. Please refer to program descriptions for additional information.

Additional grade designations possible are:

CR/P	= Pass, satisfactory 0.0 Grade Points, credit awarded
NC	= Attempted, failed 0.0 Grade Points, no credit awarded
I	= Incomplete 0.0 Grad Points, credit upon completion
W	= Withdrawal 0.0 Grade Points, no credit awarded
R	= Course Repeated Credit awarded upon successful completion
T	= Transfer Credit 0.0 Grade Points, accepted for transfer

Each final course grade a student earns will be recorded on his/her permanent record at the end of each module or academic term.

Online Grading

The faculty member instructing the course will return graded course assignments weekly (by Wednesday following the submission deadline). If, due to extenuating circumstances, these conditions cannot be met, the faculty member will establish an alternative that will be clearly communicated to the students.

Mid and Final Course Exam Make-Up Policy

If a student will be absent on the day of the mid-course or final exam, he/she must make prior arrangements with the faculty member teaching the course to take the examination within three (3) class days of the scheduled exam. Exams taken late are subject to a ten percent (10%) reduction of the total points earned. With the exception of the Aviation Maintenance Technology and Vocational Nursing programs,

¹ An independent study may be granted for an entire module or portion of a module if the student anticipates less than fourteen (14) consecutive days' absence.

quizzes may not be taken if missed when originally scheduled.

Make-up Policy in Online Courses

Certain assignments may be submitted late. Late submissions may be subject to a grade penalty. Information on which assignments may be submitted late, along with any applied penalties, is included in the course syllabus.

Grade of Incomplete (I)

Students may be granted a grade of Incomplete (I) if they are unable to complete course requirements due to:

- Unforeseeable, but fully justified reasons; or
- Medical reasons verified by written documentation from the student's treating physician

The faculty member teaching the course will make the determination as to whether a student's situation meets the criteria for granting a grade of Incomplete.

Students must complete and submit a *Petition for Incomplete* to the faculty member teaching the course prior to the end date of the course. Petition forms are available on InfoZone.

If a *Petition for Incomplete* is granted, the faculty member will advise the student of the course work to be completed, including assignments, due date, and points possible. Students must complete the remaining course requirements by the end of the next grading period following the course for which the incomplete was granted. If a student does not complete the coursework in the allotted time, the final grade will be based on the total points earned at the time the incomplete was granted. The faculty member will update the student's academic record with the actual grade earned in the course at the end of the next grading period.

For more information or clarification on the policy and procedures related to grades of Incomplete, please see a member of the faculty or the Registrar.

Withdrawal from College (W)

If a student withdraws or is terminated from the College, he/she will be awarded a grade of "W" in all current courses. A grade of "W" will be counted as attempted credits but will not be used in the computation of the cumulative grade point average.

Students are strongly encouraged to notify the Dean of Student Services as soon as they become aware of the need to withdraw from the College.

Grade Point Average

The grade point average (GPA) is computed by dividing the total grade points earned by the total units attempted. Courses with a grade of "PASS," "FAIL," "W," "I," and "T" are not included in the calculation of the grade point average.

If a student is required to repeat a course due to substandard academic performance, only the highest grade earned for the course will be used in the computation of the grade point average.

Grade Appeal Policy

If a student is of the opinion that a grade received for a particular course is incorrect, the student has the right to take formal action by utilizing the Grade Appeal Process. Appeals are limited to situations in which a student believes the grade was a mistake in calculation, demonstrable bias, gross negligence or misapplication of stated criteria.

In order to appeal a final grade, students must utilize the Grade Appeal Process published in the **Student Handbook**.

PROGRAMMATIC GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Students enrolled in certain programs will be required to meet or exceed the educational standards established for progression through the program. Examples of some of the standards include achievement of minimum grades in coursework and the attainment and maintenance of a minimum grade point average, as designated by the particular program.

Course work that earns less than the established minimum grade requirement will not count for units earned, but will count for units attempted, and will be counted in the calculation of the grade point average until the course is retaken. Courses completed with less than the established minimum grade requirement must be retaken for credit in order to advance through the program and to meet graduation requirements. Specific programmatic educational requirements are located in the program listings in this Catalog.

COURSE RETAKES

All failed courses must be repeated until a passing grade is earned for the purpose of assuring that all program and graduation requirements are fulfilled. Students who fail a course will be placed on a waiting list in order to secure an available seat in the course the next time it is offered. Failing any course is likely to delay a student's graduation date and may require a leave of absence and/or financial aid update. Students are strongly encouraged to make every effort to satisfactorily complete all courses as scheduled and to take advantage of the various academic support services available to them.

Previously passed courses may be repeated at the end of the program or upon re-entry to the College in order to meet the following:

- The minimum GPA requirement for graduation
- Skill attainment for students who have been out of the classroom/field