

NWCNHS Student Academic Grievance/Appeal Procedure

Revised 12-7-11

NWCNHS students have the right to grieve/appeal academic grading/course complaints/ controversies and program progression/dismissal decisions. According to the FIU Student Policy (undergraduate and graduate) written guidelines:

The FIU Academic Grievance Procedure indicates the reasons (nature of appeal) for an academic grievance include: “covers academic grievances which are defined as any complaint or controversy alleging: 1) unprofessional conduct by a professor which adversely affects either a student’s ability to satisfy academic expectations, whether in the classroom, the field, or a lab, or the student’s actual performance; 2) improper admission counseling; 3) improper counseling by an adviser; 4) arbitrary grading for coursework, comprehensive examination, thesis or dissertation; and 5) arbitrary non-renewal of a graduate assistant or arbitrary dismissal from a course or program.”

Students who wish to appeal MUST FIRST follow the NWCNHS academic grievance/appeal procedure.

1. Speak with the course faculty member(s) about grade or other controversies/course complaints within two (2) working days after grade is posted.

If a grade impacts the student’s progression for the subsequent semester and the student wishes to appeal, the student must begin the appeal process within two (2) working days after the grade is officially posted by speaking with the faculty member. The student must explain the nature (what is the reason) and condition (what are the facts to support the complaint/controversy) of the appeal.

A student who is dismissed from a program and files a grievance will NOT be allowed to enroll in courses until the grievance process is completed.

2. If unresolved at the faculty level, the student has seven (7) working days to proceed with the appeal to the level of the department chair/director (or designee), if the student desires. The appeal must be in writing and include the nature (reason) and condition (set of factors with data) of the grievance, and a summary of previous efforts to resolve it. The written appeal must be addressed to the department chair/director; a hard copy must be signed by the student grievant, and must be date-stamped by program staff upon receipt. In addition, the student must include a current address and telephone contact number(s). An email notification is not acceptable. An appointment to meet with the department chair/director will be made.
3. After the student submits the written appeal and meets with the chair/director of the program, a written response to the student via certified mail from the administrator or his/her designee will occur within seven (7) business days of the date-stamped appeal. If a student has not

received a certified letter within ten (10) business days of the submitted appeal, the student MUST contact the office of the administrator.

4. When the student receives the letter from the chair/director of the program, he/she has seven (7) business days from the date on the letter to proceed with the appeal to the level of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (or designee), if the student desires. The document must include the nature and condition of the grievance, plus a summary of previous efforts to resolve it. The written appeal must be addressed to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs; a hard copy must be signed by the student grievant, and must be date-stamped by program staff upon receipt. An appointment to meet with the Associate Dean will be made.

NOTE: For a clinical course or clinical progression complaint/controversy, the student appeals to the Faculty Assembly Student Affairs Committee following the same process as stated above in 4. The level of appeals for a clinical course or clinical progression complaint/controversy is first (#1)—faculty member; second (#2)—Chair, Faculty Assembly Student Affairs Committee; third (#3)—Associate Dean of Academic Affairs; and fourth (#4)—Dean.

5. After the student submits the written appeal and meets with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, a written response to the student via certified mail from the administrator or his/her designee will occur within seven (7) business days of the date-stamped appeal. If a student has not received a certified letter within ten (10) business days of the submitted appeal, the student MUST contact the office of the administrator.
6. When the student receives the letter from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, he/she has seven (7) business days from the date on the letter to proceed with the appeal to the level of the Dean (or designee), if the student desires. The document must include the nature and condition of the grievance, plus a summary of previous efforts to resolve it. The written appeal must be addressed to the Dean; a hard copy must be signed by the student grievant, and must be date-stamped by program staff upon receipt. An appointment to meet with the Dean will be made.
7. After the student submits the written appeal and meets with the Dean, a written response to the student via certified mail from the administrator or his/her designee will occur within seven (7) business days after the date-stamped appeal. If a student has not received a certified letter within ten (10) business days of the submitted appeal, the student MUST contact the office of the administrator.
8. **The Dean's decision is final.**