

Policy Name: Final Grade Appeal Process - BSMCON
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Title of Policy Owner: Campus Director & Dean of Academic Affairs - BSMCON
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Approved by: RHEI Leadership Team
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I. Policy

It is the policy of the Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing (“College” or “BSMCON”) that appropriate processes and procedures be followed in all matters pertaining to the rights of students.

II. Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to provide students due process to appeal a final course grade.

III. Scope

This policy applies to all students and faculty at Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing.

IV. Definitions

Grade Appeal: A formal process through which a student can appeal the final grade in a course. A final course grade appeal must be based on at least one of the following claims:

- Capricious action on the part of the faculty member that affects the student’s final grade; a capricious action is defined as one made on a whim or without justifiable reasons.
- Prejudicial treatment of the student by the faculty member with respect to the application of the course syllabus, thereby affecting the student’s final grade; prejudicial treatment is defined as treating the student lodging the final grade appeal differently from other students in the course with respect to the instructor’s application of the course syllabus.
- Erroneous judgment of the faculty, such as the correct answer for exam item(s). A claim of erroneous judgment means that the student can produce evidence (from textbooks, class notes provided directly from the faculty, or other valid materials) to substantiate that a different answer other than that keyed is a correct response.
- A documented error in calculating the student’s final grade.
- Extenuating circumstance(s) that significantly impacted the student’s performance and grade in a course.

- A grade appeal may be considered in the case of unforeseen extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances are defined as debilitating health problems (mental or physical), a family emergency (such as the death of an immediate family member), and unexpected financial difficulties (such as a partner/spouse losing their job) that has significant detrimental impact to a student during the semester. The following are not acceptable stand-alone reasons for petitioning:
 - - Poor performance in class/GPA protection
 - Failure to attend/participate in class on a regular basis
 - Failure to abide by withdrawal deadlines

Student: Anyone who is officially registered at the College during the academic semester or term in which the grade complaint arises.

Business Days: Defined as Monday through Friday when the College is not on break as stated on the published Academic Calendar.

V. Policy Details

Initiation of a Grade Appeal:

A final grade appeal cannot be initiated until the final course grade is posted. All final grade appeals must be initiated no later than two (2) business days after the day final grades are due as published in the academic calendar. Grade appeals must be submitted electronically via the Final Grade Appeal Request form.

In the event that a final course grade results in academic dismissal and the student is appealing the final grade requesting to not be dismissed must go through the grade appeal process as defined in this policy.

Students are encouraged to contact their Success Advisor if assistance is needed in understanding this policy. In addition, the Advisor will assist students in determining the appropriate person with whom a student must file an appeal, and providing that person’s contact information.

Grade appeals must be submitted according to the following order:

Level I	Level II
Program Chair/Coordinator/Director or Designee	Dean of Academic Affairs or Designee

VI. Procedures:

Level I: Student and Program Chair/Coordinator/Director or Designee

Student

1. Submit the Level I section of the Final Grade Appeal Request form. On this form the student will provide (at the minimum):
 - a. The claim for the appeal as defined in Section IV of this policy.
 - b. A description of the circumstances related to the appeal.
 - c. The resolution that the student is seeking.
 - d. Evidence to support the claim (i.e. documents – doctor’s note, assignment, obituary, copy of the grade book, attendance record, witness statements, etc.).
2. Meet with the Program Chair/Coordinator/Director or Designee to clearly state the case, clarify evidence, and confirm the solution be sought. Prior to the meeting, the student may request to have a silent observer in the meeting. Both the student and Program Chair/Coordinator/Director or Designee must agree to the student’s silent observer. No attorneys or other advisors/counselors are allowed to be present to represent either party. No audio taping or other recording will be permitted during the meeting, but all parties are encouraged to make notes as they feel appropriate.

If the student is not satisfied with the outcome of their grade appeal at Level I, they may continue to Level II.

Program Chair/Coordinator/Director or Designee

1. The Program Chair/Coordinator/Director or Designee has a maximum of five (5) business days from the date the Final Grade Appeal Request form is submitted by the student to schedule a meeting with the student. The meeting may be conducted in person, virtually or by phone. The Program Chair may have a silent observer in attendance at the meeting. No attorneys or other advisors/counselors are allowed to be present to represent either party. No audio taping or other recording will be permitted during the meeting, but all parties are encouraged to make notes as they feel appropriate.
2. The Program Chair/Coordinator/Director or Designee will fully investigate the appeal by consulting the faculty, advisor, or others as needed, verifying grading rationale, and ensuring adherence to syllabus and other related policies.
3. Within two (2) business days after meeting with the student, the Program Chair/Coordinator/Director or Designee sends a formal letter by email to the student to communicate the decision reached and file the communication in the student information system (SIS). The faculty member and advisor must be copied on the email.

Level II (Final): Student and Dean of Academic Affairs

Student

1. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome at Level I, within two (2) business days from the communication of the decision from the Program Chair/Coordinator/Director or Designee, the student may submit a Level II appeal by submitting the Level II Final Grade Appeal Request form.

2. On that form, the student must provide the decision letter from the Program Chair and may provide additional information not presented in Level I. This information will be added to the information provided for Level I.
3. Meet with the Dean of Academic Affairs to clearly state the case, clarify evidence, and confirm the solution be sought. Prior to the meeting, the student may request to have a silent observer in the meeting. Both the student and Dean must agree to the student's silent observer. No attorneys or other advisors/counselors are allowed to be present to represent either party. No audio taping or other recording will be permitted during the meeting, but all parties are encouraged to make notes as they feel appropriate.

Dean of Academic Affairs

1. The Dean of Academic Affairs has a maximum of ten (10) business days from the date the Level II Final Grade Appeal Request form is submitted by the student to schedule a meeting with the student. The meeting may be conducted in person, virtually or by phone. The Dean of Academic Affairs may have a silent observer in attendance at the meeting. No attorneys or other advisors/counselors are allowed to be present to represent either party. No audio taping or other recording will be permitted during the meeting, but all parties are encouraged to make notes as they feel appropriate.
2. The Dean will fully investigate the appeal by consulting the faculty, advisor, Program Chair, or others as needed.
3. Within five (5) business days after the meeting, the Dean of Academic Affairs shall prepare a report of the disposition of the matter, immediately providing copies to the student, faculty, advisor, and Program Chair
4. Level II outcome decisions are final. No further appeals can be made for that course in that semester or term.

NOTE:

Course assignment/exam grades determined via the Academic Integrity Report and Review Procedure outlined in ADM 3.05 Student Conduct Rights and Responsibility policy may not be appealed through this policy.

Students who appeal a failing grade may be permitted to progress to the next course/term/semester pending a final decision in their case or may be permitted to go on a standard period of non-enrollment. **Those who progress to the next course/term/semester are responsible for any tuition and fees associated with such progression and may be at risk of financial loss should their appeal be unsuccessful. A period of non-enrollment will impact the student's anticipated date of graduation, even if successful on appeal.**

Final Disposition of Records

All materials and decisions related to the appeal will remain confidential and will be retained by the Dean of Academic Affairs for three years from the date of final decision, and not before the affected student graduates, at which time all materials will be destroyed, unless the Dean of Academic Affairs directs otherwise.

VII. Attachments

VIII. Related Policies

- ADM 1.05 Student Grievance Process
- ADM 4.07 Establishing Principles of Excellence - Military

IX. Disclaimers

- a. Nothing in this policy creates a contractual relationship between Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing (BSMCON) and any party. BSMCON, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to amend, terminate or discontinue this policy at any time, with or without advance notice.
- b. *Non-retaliation* – Students will not be subjected to adverse actions by any school officials as a result of initiating or participating in the investigation of a complaint.
- c. *Decision Standard* - Decisions made in appeal cases are determined on a preponderance of the evidence. A preponderance of the evidence is evidence that as a whole shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not.

X. Version Control

Version	Date	Description	Prepared by
1.0	5/27/2020	Revisions and new template	Dean of Academic Affairs
2.0	5/11/2022	Process refinements, title updates, D&I language updates	Dean of Academic Affairs
2.1	5/19/2025	Revisions	CDDAA