

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 0316F
Date of Senate Approval 11/03/16

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC 2: **Dissolving the Policy Regarding Excusing Seniors from Final Exams During the Last Semester of Their Program (Faculty Handbook [Section 5.2.1.2.7](#))**

Effective date: Immediately

Summary: This document removes #7 from Section 5.2.1.2 (known as Section 5.2.1.2.7) and renumbers #8 to #7.

Rationale: Section 5.2.1.2.7 is an artifact of UNC Asheville's historic practice of combining graduation (*the process of completing all requirements for a degree program and being awarded a degree*) and commencement (*a ceremony in which a student is recognized by the University community, family, and friends*). Combining the two required that the grades of graduating seniors had to be submitted earlier than the grades of non-graduating students. Consequently, graduating seniors frequently had to take their final exams before their classmates and on a much tighter schedule. Because this imposed an unfair burden on graduating seniors, Section 5.2.1.2.7 granted faculty the power to excuse graduating seniors from taking final exams during the last semester of their program. On December 3, 2015 the Senate passed [Senate Document Number 1515F](#), decoupling graduation and commencement and making it possible for graduating seniors to take their final exams with their classmates. Because this eliminates the unfair burden placed on graduating seniors, the rationale for excusing them from final exams is removed and Section 5.2.1.2.7 is no longer needed.

1) Delete 5.2.1.2.7 and renumber 5.2.1.2.8 to 5.2.1.2.7:

5.2.1.2 Final Examinations Policy ([SD3782](#)) (edited by VCAA, 2007)

The final exam schedule for each semester is available at <http://registrar.unca.edu/schedule-classes-and-exams>

1. Exams are scheduled the last week of each semester at the same beginning time as the courses themselves.
2. Courses in the MWF mode have exams scheduled on M, W, or F. Courses in the T, Th mode have exams on T or Th.
3. Exams for courses at 6:00 p.m. or on Saturday are held in the usual class period.
4. Term I courses have their exams during the last class period.
5. A student may petition an instructor for an individual exam at a time and place to be arranged by the instructor.
6. The assigning of a comprehensive final examination is optional. However, each member of the faculty is expected to use the assigned period for appropriate educational activities.
- ~~7. Faculty members may excuse graduating seniors from taking final exams during the last semester of their program.~~
- ~~8.~~ 7. Infrequent evaluation is considered detrimental to learning. Hence, the final exam should not be the only criterion for a student's final grade.