

Timeline of Discussions and Decisions Regarding Covered Grades

The CG policy was originally implemented September 1971.

2008

Fall 2008

- Academic Council and Homewood Dean's office assemble investigative committee and charge it to evaluate the merits of the CG policy
- Members include academic council members, 2 deans overseeing undergraduate education, and 2 undergraduate student representatives (including the senior class president)
- Five meetings are held through AY 2008-2009

September 2008

White paper: "Covered Grades for Freshmen in the Homewood Schools." Prepared the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education (KSAS) and the Vice Dean for Education (WSE), at the request of the Homewood Academic Council (HAC).

September 17, 2008

JHU News-Letter article: [Unhelpful assistance](#)

September 18, 2008

JHU News-Letter article: ["Future of covered grades in question – Tour guides told to de-emphasize school's policy of first semester covered grades"](#)

September 23, 2008

Inside Higher Ed article: ["To Cover or Not to Cover First-Semester Grades"](#)

2009

February 16, 2009

Faculty discuss CGs at Homewood Faculty Assembly

March 3–31, 2009

As part of HAC investigative committee, an online survey was created to assess opinions of the CG policy. Invitations to participate were sent to Homewood undergraduates, alumni, and faculty. 1,996 HW students completed the survey.

March 4, 2009

Study prepared: "Does The Covered Grade Policy Affect Student Academic Outcomes?"

- Statistical analysis compared JHU student academic performance in the 1st semester with later semesters for three student cohorts

Spring 2009

Investigative committee submits to HAC its report, “The Future of 1st semester Covered Grades in the Homewood Schools”

- Report summarizes arguments for/against CGs, quantitative analysis (see above), and various stakeholder opinions
- Committee recommends either (a) retain CGs but introduce changes to reduce the negative attributes or (b) eliminate CGs but introduce an alternative policy that may better serve the intended purpose of CGs
- Both options recommend the application of a more proactive 1st semester academic advising Policy
- Committee noted that “any proposed major policy change must first be carefully considered and vetted so that unintended deleterious consequences are not incurred”

Fall 2009

HAC charges the Academic Affairs Subcommittee to produce a one-page summary of the Spring 2009 report in the form of policy options for the AC to consider.

Oct. 2009

HAC Academic Affairs Subcommittee proposes six policy options regarding CGs, including retaining, eliminating, and modifying the existing CG policy.

2010

Nov. 1, 2010

Council of Homewood Advisors issues a memo to HAC providing their support for eliminating the CG policy

2011

February 26, 2011

All aforementioned reports are discussed at HAC retreat.

June 8, 2011

The HAC discusses a proposal to eliminate CG policy effective fall 2014. This is the first time a HAC vote on the matter was taken since the focused assessment of the policy began in 2008. Motion to eliminate the policy carries.