Explanation of the FA grade

Southwest does not have a college-wide attendance policy but requires that faculty report attendance once at the beginning of each semester. After that point, if a student does not officially withdraw, he will earn grade of A, B, C, D, F, FA. The initiation of the "FA" grade was to help Southwest comply with federal financial aid regulations and to help manage our increasing accounts receivables.

- Students who never or seldom cut classes and are still attending should receive grade of A, B, C, D, F based on what they have earned.
- Students who have missed the final should be assigned a letter grade other than “FA” according to the instructor’s grading policy.
- A grade of “FA” is used for students who have stopped attending at a point from the 14th day through the last day to withdraw and have not officially withdrawn.
- A grade of “FA” could have financial implications for a student on financial aid.

Examples

- Mary had an “A” until she stopped coming to class on Nov 1st. At the end of the semester, she should receive a “FA”.
- John was failing the course and stopped coming in October. At the end of the semester, he should receive a “FA”.
- Bill stopped coming to class on September 15th. At the end of the semester, he should receive a “FA”.
- Jane stopped attending on November 12th. At the end of the semester, she should receive an “F” because the last date to withdraw was November 9th.
- Suzy stopped attending Oct. 15th, but re-appeared the last couple of days of the semester and took the final. She would receive an “F” (if it agrees with the instructor’s grading policy). She would not receive a “FA” grade because the student attended class after the last day to withdraw.