1. INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

Upon completion of an APPE rotation, students may receive a grade of unsatisfactory (U), satisfactory (S), or S+. A grade of “Honors” appears on the transcript when a grade of S+ is submitted.

2. GUIDELINE

A grade of S+ may be awarded to students who have demonstrated exemplary performance during an APPE rotation.

3. PROCEDURES

Requirement for receipt of a grade of S+

1) In order to be eligible for a grade of Honors, the student must receive a score of 4 or 5 for each competency during the rotation.

2) In addition to meeting objective performance criteria, the preceptor must submit to the Experiential Learning Committee (at the time the rotation evaluation form is submitted), a written description of why he/she feels a grade of S+ is justified. The written description justifying the recommendation must be submitted electronically or in writing to the Director of Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences within 2 working days of the student’s completion of the rotation. Specific examples of student performance must be included in the justification.

Examples of the types of justification may include, but are not limited to, (noting that completion of just one activity does not justify a grade of S+):

a. The student contributed ideas that improved the services the practice site provides
b. The student initiated and voluntarily completed a project for the rotation that was not required for rotation completion (e.g., journal club, nursing or pharmacy in-service education)

c. The student consistently recognized when a service was needed at the practice site and provided assistance without being asked (e.g., stayed late to help out or gain added experience, assisted pharmacists and/or other staff with their work)

d. The student consistently completed assigned tasks at a level above and beyond the minimal requirements for project completion

3) All written descriptions justifying the recommendation for an S+ grade must contain the following statement (or wording to this effect): “In submitting this recommendation for an S+ grade, I am attesting to the fact that I am requesting this grade voluntarily and that the student made no attempt to encourage or persuade me to request this grade.” Attempts by the student to request a grade of S+ will make them automatically ineligible for consideration of a grade modification.

4) To maintain consistency, the two Co-Chairs of the Experiential Learning Committee (one of which is the Director of Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences) and the Director of Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences will review the rotation evaluation form and the submitted justification letter. Two votes in favor of a grade of S+ are required in order for the S+ grade to be awarded.

5) All decisions will be made within 1 to 2 weeks of the completion of the rotation being considered for an S+ grade. A grade modification form will be submitted if the determination of the S+ grade cannot be made until after the University’s grade submission deadline has passed.

6) The number of S+ grades will not exceed 15% of the total grades awarded for a given rotation block.

5. COMMENTS/EXCEPTIONS

The assignment of a grade of S+ is an honor bestowed by the School of Pharmacy at the request of an individual preceptor to reward outstanding performance. Students or other faculty/preceptors should not attempt to persuade the preceptor of record that an S+ grade should be recommended to the Experiential Learning Committee. Failure to receive an S+ grade for an APPE rotation may not be appealed by students.

6. REFERENCES

West Virginia University Office of Admissions and Records.