

Reform and Practice of Teaching Management Mode of Ecologicalization-Based Make-Up Examinations and Reexaminations in Colleges and Universities

--Taking School of Humanities and Laws of Tianjin Polytechnic University as an Example

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ABSTRACT. *Make-up examination is an examination organized by the teaching management department for specific students. Generally speaking, students who fail the normal assessment or pass the exam can apply for the make-up examination. This paper introduces ecological viewpoints into the teaching management in colleges and universities, explores how to improve the system of make-up examinations and reexaminations, puts forward important measures to solve the problem, and applies the suggested measures to the teaching management process of make-up examinations and reexaminations of the School of Humanities and Laws in 6 semesters of 2014-2016. As can be seen from the statistic data of examinations, the make-up examination and reexamination rates are respectively reduced by half before the reform, showing that the reform measures are effective with practical application value.*

KEYWORDS: *College make-up examination; College reexamination, ecologicalization; Teaching management*

1. Introduction

At the present stage in China, higher education has shifted from elite education to popular education. With the increase of college enrollment rate, the overall quality of students is decreased; the contradiction between college infrastructure, scientific research equipment, faculty and talent cultivation is becoming increasingly more obvious; students' enthusiasm for learning is decreased, their scores are declined, and the number of participants in make-up examinations and re-examinations is increased significantly. Therefore, students, families and schools should attach great importance to this and try to explore effective measures.

2. Analysis on the present situation of make-up examinations and reexaminations in colleges and universities

According to the *Enforcement Regulations on Student Status Management* of Tianjin Polytechnic University, students who fail to pass exams of compulsory courses and limited optional courses every semester can only take make-up examinations of the failed courses at the beginning of the next semester; students who still fail to pass make-up examinations of some courses are allowed to take re-examinations at school; students who fail to pass reexaminations or do not have opportunities for reexaminations can apply for make-up examinations before graduation. At present, some difficulties and problems, which need to be urgently solved and deeply reformed, of make-up examination and reexamination systems of compulsory courses and limited optional courses are exposed to different extents ^[1], specifically as shown below:

2.1 Make-up examinations and reexaminations involve large number and extensive scope of students

a. A large number of students take make-up examinations and reexaminations

Taking the reexamination data of School of Humanities and Laws of Tianjin Polytechnic University in the first semester of 2012-2013 as an example, a total of 121 students took reexaminations 215 times, accounting for 11.2% of the total number of students in the university (total number of students minus freshmen), including 52 seniors accounting for 43.0% of the total number of students taking reexaminations; and 28 juniors and 41 sophomores, respectively accounting for 23.1% and 33.9% of the total number of students taking reexaminations.

b. Many subjects and courses are involved

Taking the re-examination data of School of Humanities and Laws in the first semester of 2012-2013 as an example, 43 subjects were involved in reexaminations, including 77 students taking a reexamination of 1 subject and accounting for 63.6% of the number of students taking reexaminations; 33 students taking reexaminations of 2-3 subjects and accounting for 27.2% of the number of students taking reexaminations; the rest students taking reexaminations of more than 4 subjects.

2.2 The effects of make-up examinations and reexaminations are not ideal

First of all, students miss make-up examinations with high examination absence rates. After relaxation in a vacation, it is very difficult for students who need to take make-up examinations to calmly and carefully review the knowledge points, have emotions greatly resistant to make-up examinations due to weak knowledge base, and don't take examinations, thereby resulting in serious phenomenon of absence in make-up examinations. Secondly, students do not attach importance to

reexaminations, and the exam pass rate is not ideal. Because reexaminations are free of charge, and students will be degraded only after accumulating to certain credits, students feel that reexaminations are cost free. Some students think that even if they fail to pass reexaminations, they still have opportunities for clear examinations before graduation, and finally can get graduation certificates, so that students attach no importance to reexaminations, and do not carefully prepare for examinations. Therefore, the exam pass rate is not ideal. Moreover, there is less teachers' guidance on reexaminations, and students bear insufficient pressure and make insufficient efforts to pass examinations, so that the reexamination results are not as good as the results of the initial examination. Among them, the failure rate of freshmen and sophomores is relatively high, which has a lot to do with their failure to fully adapt to the pace of university study and life when they just enter the university. College study is fundamentally different from high school study, which is closed and imprisoned under the pressure of college entrance examination. However, university study is open and free. Students have autonomy and diversified lives. Therefore, junior students suddenly lose external pressure and tend to lose themselves.

2.3 Make-up examinations and reexaminations bring additional costs to teaching management

Firstly, the workload of teachers is increased. There will be make-up examinations at the beginning of each semester and reexaminations at the end of each semester. Teachers should not only guarantee the teaching quality, but also consider the make-up examination and reexamination pass rates from the perspective of setting examination papers, print examination papers, monitor examinations, and go over examination papers, which undoubtedly increase teachers' workload and complexity. Secondly, the difficulty in teaching management is increased. Teaching managers should determine the time and place of make-up examinations at the beginning of each semester, arrange the time and place of reexaminations at the end of each semester, issue corresponding examination information on campus network, and summarize school reports, etc., but there are still phenomena of absence in examinations, thereby resulting in increase of teaching costs.

3. The predicament of the make-up examination system

The determination of make-up qualifications is becoming increasingly complex. As far as the author knows, the courses of colleges and universities are increasingly diversified. There are compulsory courses and elective courses and specialized courses and general education courses, which are intersected. In the determination of the make-up examination qualification, colleges and universities have their own restrictions and regulations. In practice, the author finds that with the expansion of the enrollment of the big platform and the expanding coverage of the professional, the training mode of each major has been adjusted. For example, the compulsory

course of the A major is an elective course in the B major, which causes certain problems in determining the qualification of the retest. In addition, if you apply for a postponement, you will be given a make-up examination regardless of the nature of the course. The judgment of make-up examination is in conflict with the credit system, which is a flexible teaching management system compatible with the cultivation of talents of various specifications and conducive to individualized teaching. Under the premise of the credit system, the selection of courses and the change of student status in colleges and universities reflect autonomy, diversity and human nature, which is conducive to mobilizing students' enthusiasm, initiative and creativity. However, more and more students are unable to take the courses planned for this semester in the prescribed semester due to their personalized needs, such as going abroad for exchange, changing majors or suspending their studies. In practice, many students lose the qualification of make-up examination due to the problems of course selection in each semester. Today, when the independent course selection system is widely implemented, it is obviously unreasonable to measure whether students have the qualification of make-up examination with the standard of school year system.

The calculation method of make-up grade is to be considered. For the score of make-up examination, Tianjin Polytechnic University will calculate the score of qualified make-up examination by "P", and P will not calculate the score of admission. For the score of unqualified make-up examination, it will calculate the score of admission by "F", and F will calculate the score of admission. The computation of make-up exam result, each colleges and universities method is different, for example, zhejiang university is qualified to make-up exam student press 60 minutes record result. Whether calculated according to P or 60 points, it has its unreasonable points, one-size-fits-all approach can not truthfully reflect the students' learning level and examination results and leave some students the opportunity to exploit the loopholes. In the author's opinion, make-up examination is another precious opportunity for failing the final examination, or a new examination opportunity for students with delay. The final examination result should be calculated according to the paper score and the usual score. However, the following should be noted (make-up examination) words, assessment into GPA calculation.

4. The analysis of the make-up examination system advantages and disadvantages

The make-up examination system is a remedy for the education examination in colleges and universities. There are many advantages of the make-up examination system: it is beneficial for students to reduce the cost of retaking, relieve the pressure of failing, and improve the graduation rate; save resources for retaking and arranging classes. At present, there are special class and joining into the class for retake. The opening of retake classes often fails to meet the needs of students who need to retake. Some students with curriculum conflicts need to follow the retake of lower grade students. Due to the limited classroom size and teachers' energy, the number of students is limited to the maximum. The existence of the re-examination has alleviated the pressure of class scheduling and class selection.

At the same time, there are many drawbacks to the re-examination system: to promote students to have the idea of burnout, rely on the make-up examination paper to reduce the difficulty or the teacher cheats. The arrangement of make-up examination puts great pressure on academic staff and professional teachers. Because make-up examination is usually arranged at the beginning of each semester, which is a very busy stage of teaching management in a semester. A lot of manpower and material resources need to be mobilized. The re-examination system is contrary to the basic framework of the credit system. Based on the problems of the advancement and re-examination of the complete credit system, some colleges and universities in the country have canceled the re-examination, which stipulates that the courses that students fail to pass must be retake. For example, Tsinghua University in Term 18 of the "Regulations on the Management of Undergraduate Student Status of Tsinghua University" stipulates that those who do not meet the curriculum assessment should apply for re-take. Peking University in Term 19 of the "Peking University Student Status Management Rules" stipulates that those who fail the course assessment should apply for re-learning. The experience of Tsinghua University and Peking University can certainly give some reference to other universities, but the current practice of most universities is the academic year credit system between the academic year and the credit system. If the make-up examination is completely cancelled, it will result in a hard landing of the retaking system. Students who fail all the courses will have to retake them, which will further strain the retaking course arrangement resources. It is also unfair for students who are absent because of illness to be forced to take a refresher course.

5. Measures to improve make-up examination and re-examination pass rates

From the perspective of teaching managers, this paper puts forward some suggestions on solving problems and establishing a comprehensive ecologicalized teaching management mode, specifically as follows:

5.1 Establish a harmonious "ecosphere" with students

a. Hierarchical management of students

First of all, establish good communication with students, understand students' situation from various aspects, and establish psychological files of students. Provide targeted guidance for different students and establish a hierarchical system of supervision management. Secondly, students should fill in an application form when they apply for a re-examination, and be clear about the importance of re-examination in the form of commitment. Furthermore, teaching managers can help students to find class time and places of teachers giving lessons, and guide students to arrange learning the courses, reexaminations of which are to be taken, as required.

b. Strengthen education of freshmen about school constitutions and student career

Strengthen education of freshmen about school constitutions, stimulate students' learning motivation; emphasize understanding of the make-up examination and reexamination system, so that students can set up proper concept of make-up examinations and reexaminations, so as to completely eradicate students' concept of indolently passing exams by trickery. Teachers can also prepare micro-lesson videos for students to study online, so that students accept corresponding rules and regulations based on the audio-visual effects. Teachers shall strengthen positive guidance for students, and guide students to master correct learning methods and have correct learning attitudes.

c. Give full play to the potential of student cadres in each class, and strengthen the teaching management team

Teaching managers should establish an auxiliary teaching management work team based on student cadres, and give full play to the role of student cadres, so as to cultivate students' ability and consciousness of "self-education, self-service and self-management" in daily learning through guidance and demonstration effects. The commissary in charge of studies of each class serves as the administrative assistant, strengthens mastery of students' states by way of establishing a QQ group and a WeChat group whilst regularly holding a regular meeting of commissaries in charge of studies, and early discover and solve problems, if any, so as to practically enhance the level of teaching management, and achieve the goal of "educating students by management".

d. Standardize examination management using a two-stage centralized examination management mode (school-level and college-level)

First of all, strengthen publicity and education of examination, and strive to create a healthy and positive examination atmosphere. Study examination disciplines and regulations on punishment of behaviors violating the disciplines and cheating in detail, eliminate fluke minds, hold correct examination objectives, and take examinations with students' practical results. Secondly, improve the examination management mechanism, and strictly manage the examination process. The centralized examination management mode is used in colleges. During centralized examinations in a college, patrol inspection teachers are arranged to be responsible for checking the examinations and coordinating examination rooms of the college. During the centralized examination week, the patrol inspection team, which is led by the dean in charge and consists of teachers of the teaching office and the office of student affairs, shall be responsible for checking the examination discipline of the whole college, so as to put the system construction into effect.

5.2 Establish a harmonious "ecosphere" with the office of student affairs of colleges

First of all, cooperate with the counsellor and the teacher in charge of a class in the student management work. The counselor and the teacher in charge of the class can cooperate with the counselor in completing follow-up investigation of the

students' learning situation, promptly communicating with each other, and formulating a scientific teaching plan for students every semester. Secondly, cooperate with the office of student affairs in carrying out activities for building a good campus culture atmosphere. Campus culture can reflect the unique cultural atmosphere of the school and the unique humanistic spirit. The positive, healthy and colorful campus culture is directly related to the healthy growth of college students. By enriching students' second class through all kinds of beneficial club activities, they feel the joy of school learning and life^[2].

5.3 Establish a harmonious “ecosphere” with the office of academic affairs and other functional departments of the school

First of all, the key to improving the reexamination pass rate is attaching importance by schools. Schools attach importance to the role of improving the make-up examination and reexamination pass rates, and the importance degree determines all aspects of work. Secondly, students should be tutored for examinations of retaken courses after paying proper training costs. It is suggested that students should be charged for tuition fees of retaken courses, so that students can realize the seriousness of exams whilst making up for the increased workload of teachers and increased cost of teaching management work to a certain extent.

5.4 Establish a harmonious “ecosphere” with teachers

Teaching managers should extensively listen to students' opinions, classify various difficulties, ideas and requirements of learning for make-up examinations and reexaminations, inform course teachers, and assist teachers to seek for teaching means of make-up examinations and reexaminations readily acceptable to students. Course teachers should reform the traditional course ending way by once-through exams, increase the examination ratio in usual learning process, and enable students to independently choose an examination way based on the characteristics of courses using closed-book exam, open-book exam, semi-open-book exam, oral exam, operation, writing a short essay, etc., so that passive candidates become actively participating decision makers.

5.5 Establish a harmonious “ecosphere” with students' parents

Establish parent information database and parent contact cards. Especially for students having high cumulative failure scores in make-up examinations and reexaminations, teachers should strengthen communication and contacts with the parents of these students, promptly announce the achievements and performance of these students, give full play to the role of family education, achieve family-school co-cultivation, and form an ecologicalized management mode.

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