The determination of grades for research is the responsibility of the major professor. Procedures for the change of major professors and the grievance of research credit awarded are established below.

1. **A student changes from one major professor to another major professor, continuing in the thesis option:**
   If staff changes or other valid reasons dictate a change in major professor, such a transition can be made at the request of the student and with the consent of the student’s committee, as evidenced by filing a revised program of study with the graduate office. A written appeal by a student for a change in major professor may be filed with the Council on Graduate Education through the Dean of Graduate Education in contested cases. The decision by the Council on Graduate Education is final. When such changes occur, a new program of study must be submitted to the graduate office. The new major professor will have the option to accept none, all, or a portion of the previous research credits earned under the direction of the previous major professor. Those credits not accepted as applying toward the candidate’s degree program credit total will be listed in the "Other" column in the student's revised program of study.

2. **A student changes from the thesis option to the non-thesis option (with or without a change of major professor):**
   When a student is transferring from a M.S. thesis degree program to a M.S. non-thesis program, the student may petition the Dean of Graduate Education to transfer up to 3 credit hours of previous thesis research with the documented support and approval of the student’s major professor. Additional thesis credits above the 3 credit hours can be transferred on a case by case basis with the approval of the student’s committee and the Graduate Dean.

3. **Appeal procedures for change of grade**
   Any student may appeal the grade awarded through the SDSM&T grievance procedures for students as listed in the SDSM&T Student Code of Conduct publication.

**SOURCE:** Graduate Office; Office of the Provost, Nov. 2003; Graduate Dean, Dec. 2009

**BOR Reference:** None, (but refer to BOR policy section II:10 as needed)