Should I drop a class?  How do I decide?

Reasons a student might drop a class:

- **Change of major or direction** - “I no longer need this class anyway.”
- **Poor performance** - “Even with help, I just don’t get it.”
- **Fear** - “I’m in over my head. There’s no way I’ll pass.”
- **Outside influence** - “My friends/roommate/parents/team tell me to drop.”
- **Too busy** - “I’m doing too much. I don’t have time for this class.”
- **Lack of effort** - “I just never got motivated. Now I’m in trouble.”
- **Over confidence** - “I never should have signed up for 18 credits.”
- **Bailout** - “I’ll just take this in the summer, or next year.”
- **Doom** - “It’s too late to save the situation. I’ll just drop.”
- **Strategy** - “Dropping this class will help me catch up in my other classes.”

Consequences of dropping a class:

- **Financial aid, scholarships, or other awards may be adjusted or lost.** Dropping a class may affect certain types of financial aid. You may be required to pay back money you have already received, especially if dropping below 12 credit hours. Scholarships that require minimum credit hours of enrollment may be lost. To determine if dropping a class will affect your financial aid or scholarship, contact the Financial Aid office in Bennett Hall or call (740) 774-7200 ext 228 or 289.

- **Progress toward degree/graduation may be delayed.** Certain classes may require requisites in order to proceed to the next class. Some classes are offered in sequence, only once a year, or at irregular times. In order to progress on time, students should carry at least 15 hours per semester. Carrying fewer than 15 hours may extend the length of time it takes to complete a degree.

- **Academic record may be affected.** You may receive a “WP” or “WF” on your transcript. While these do not affect your GPA, a significant number of W’s on your record may suggest a pattern of careless enrollment which may be considered in applications for other programs, degrees, or jobs. **Students cannot drop a single class after week 10th of the semester.** Only under extraordinary circumstances can a student drop a class after the 10th week of the semester and only by petitioning the Associate Dean. **Doing poorly in a class is not considered as an extraordinary circumstance.**

- **Health, automobile insurance coverage; dependent status could change.** Insurance companies sometimes base coverage on enrollment. Falling below full-time status could cause you to lose your benefits. Please contact your insurance agent. Your academic status could affect your parents’ tax situation.

- **Employee tuition/work study benefits may be retracted.** Depending on the time in the semester, you may be required to pay back tuition benefits you have received.

- **Athletic eligibility could change.** Your academic status could make you ineligible to participate in athletic programs. Contact the Athletic Director in Shoemaker Center Room 113 or call (740) 774-7200 ext 206.

If you have questions regarding dropping a class, please contact the Hilltopper Advising Center in Rm. 270 of Bennett Hall or call (740) 774-7731.

Resources:
http://www.alma.edu/academics/advising/general/dropping
http://ascadvising.osu.edu/scheduling/classes/drop

Revised 5/22/14  CN