RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN ACADEMIC FRESH START POLICY

Educational Policy & Student Affairs (EPSA) Committee
Faculty Senate
May 6, 2024
PASSED

Whereas, the Ohio University Faculty Senate recognizes the importance of providing opportunities for academic renewal and success to all students; and

Whereas, some students may encounter challenges or circumstances that hinder their academic progress and success during their initial enrollment at the university; and

Whereas, implementing an Academic Fresh Start Policy for students who have been absent from Ohio University for at least two years (24 calendar months) can offer a pathway for them to reengage with their academic pursuits and achieve their educational goals; and

Whereas, an Academic Fresh Start Policy can provide returning students with a second chance to demonstrate their academic abilities and dedication to their studies; and

Whereas, numerous peer institutions have successfully implemented Academic Fresh Start Policies with positive outcomes for returning students;

Be it resolved that after appropriate implementation details have been resolved and a suitable process developed, the following Academic Fresh Start policy shall incorporate these tenets:

1. An undergraduate student returning to Ohio University after two or more years (a minimum of 24 calendar months) has the option at time at re-enrollment to request an academic “fresh start”.

2. A student re-enrolling with an academic fresh start is given an opportunity to have certain grades disregarded in the calculation of their cumulative GPA, as described in clause 3 below. This will occur in the following circumstances:
   a. the student achieves a minimum 2.00 grade point average on the first 12 hours attempted for letter grades after re-enrollment, subject to subclause (c) below, and
   b. the student remains in good standing status while completing the minimum hours, and
   c. if more than one semester is taken to reach 12 credits, the combined GPA of all semesters of enrollment after returning to the university must be 2.00 or greater.

3. Grades of F and D- earned in coursework completed during the student’s initial enrollment at Ohio University will remain on the transcript but will be excluded from the cumulative GPA calculation. The student’s academic record will indicate that a fresh start has been granted.

4. Students in selective admission or accredited programs will continue to be held to the admission/retention standards of their programs. Re-entry into the university does not
guarantee re-entry into their program if they were dismissed or denied admission based on academic performance. Furthermore, programs with specific accreditation requirements must adhere to their accreditor requirements, which may require a student to declare a different major upon seeking an Academic Fresh Start.

5. The revised GPA arising from an Academic Fresh Start cannot be used to calculate eligibility for graduation honors, or membership in honor societies.

6. If a student elects for an Academic Fresh Start, then they must complete at least 30 additional credit hours beyond their prior enrollment before a degree is awarded. (Therefore some students may be closer to graduation without the fresh start.)

7. If a student elects for an Academic Fresh Start, then this designation cannot be rescinded.

8. The Academic Fresh Start option may be effected only once during a student’s academic career.

9. Academic Fresh Start may not be combined with any Academic Forgiveness policy.

Be it further resolved that the Chair of UCC and the Chair of EPSA are responsible for convening a group charged with working with administrative and academic units of the university on the development of an implementation plan and supporting processes for this policy, with recommendations presented to Senate no later than the end of AY 2024-25.