

# Academic Renewal Policy & Procedure

## Summary

Undergraduate students who are either returning to a University System of Georgia (USG) institution or are transferring to a USG institution may be eligible for Academic Renewal.

## Purpose

This document describes the procedures and terms for academic renewal at Columbus State University and the University System of Georgia.

## Policy

Undergraduate students who are either returning to a University System of Georgia (USG) institution or are transferring to a USG institution may be eligible for Academic Renewal. Academic renewal for the student signals the initiation of a new grade point average to be used for determining academic standing. This provision allows University System of Georgia degree-seeking students who earlier experienced academic difficulty to make a fresh start and have one final opportunity to earn an associate or bachelor's degree (BR Minutes, June, 1995, p. 7).

## Procedures

1. All previously attempted coursework continues to be recorded on the student's official transcript.
  1. A Renewal GPA is begun when the student resumes taking coursework following approval for Academic Renewal.
  2. The Academic Renewal GPA will be used for determining academic standing and eligibility for graduation.
    1. To earn a degree from the institution granting Academic Renewal, a student must meet the institution's residency requirements after acquiring academic renewal status.
    2. At least 50% of work toward a degree must be completed after the granting of Academic Renewal status for a student to be eligible for honors at graduation.
  3. Academic credit for previously completed coursework -- including

transfer coursework -- will be retained only for courses in which an A, B or C grade has been earned.

1. Retained grades are not calculated in a Renewal GPA. Such credit is considered in the same context as transfer credit, credit by examination, and courses with grades of "S."
  2. Courses with D or F grades must be repeated at the Academic Renewal institution if they are required in the student's degree program. Further, all remaining courses for the current degree objective must be completed at the Academic Renewal institution, i.e., no transient credit will be accepted.
  3. Applicability of retained credit to degree requirements will be determined by the degree requirements currently in effect at the time Academic Renewal status is conferred on the student. Specific institutional program regulations must also be met.
  4. Institutions shall accept transient credits of students with Academic Renewal status per their policies regarding acceptance of such credit.
2. A student can be granted Academic Renewal status only one time.
  3. Undergraduate students who are transferring to a USG institution or returning to a USG institution after a period of absence may be eligible for Academic Renewal.
    1. Readmitted Students
      1. USG undergraduate students who return to their home institution may be eligible for Academic Renewal for coursework taken prior to the period of absence.
        1. Students must be absent from the USG institution for a minimum period of three years.
        - 2.
        3. Transfer credit for any coursework taken during the period of absence should be granted according to the institution's policies regarding transfer credits.
    2. Transfer Students
      1. Students who leave a regionally-accredited institution of higher education and transfer to a USG institution may be eligible for Academic Renewal coursework taken prior to a period of time equal to the period of absence required for Academic Renewal eligibility for readmitted students (which is no less than three years).
        1. Only coursework completed prior to the eligibility window can be considered for Academic Renewal.
        2. The period of eligibility is calculated from the date of

- enrollment at the USG institution.
3. Courses taken more recently than the period of eligibility are ineligible from consideration for Academic Renewal. However, transfer credit can be granted for coursework taken during this period according to the institution's policies regarding transfer credits
  4. Any scholastic suspensions which occurred in the past shall remain recorded on the student's permanent record. If a suspension (either first or second) is on the record and the student encounters subsequent academic difficulty after having been granted Academic Renewal, the next suspension would subject the student to dismissal.
  5. If a student does not request Academic Renewal status at the time of re-enrollment after a five year or greater period of absence, the student may do so within three semesters of re-enrollment or within one calendar year, whichever comes first.
    1. The Renewal GPA begins with the semester following re- enrollment.
  6. Reentry into any program is not automatic.
  7. Each System institution shall establish specific evaluative criteria and specific procedures for evaluating an application for Academic Renewal.
  8. The granting of Academic Renewal does not supersede financial aid policies regarding Satisfactory Academic Progress.
  9. The granting of Academic Renewal does not supersede the admissions requirements of certain programs, e.g., teacher education, nursing, which require a specific minimum grade point average based upon all coursework.
  10. Academic renewal status granted by one USG institution shall be honored at all other USG institutions.

**Definition of Terms for the Purpose of these Procedures:**

**Suspension**

-- a temporary separation from an institution. A suspension may (a) be for a specified period of time or (b) indefinite. Upon expiration of the period of suspension, the student is eligible to re-enroll. A student under indefinite suspension must petition for reinstatement to the president of the institution.

**Dismissal**

-- a permanent separation of the student from the institution. A student who is dismissed is not eligible to return to the institution.

## **Related USG Policy**

3.8.1 General

## **Last Update**

5/9/17

## **Responsible Authority**

Registrar's Office