

Academic Policy Proposals to Increase Class Accessibility

Submitted by Celeste Pardee, Academic Affairs

The Undergraduate Council (UGC) and Faculty Advisory Council on Accessibility to Majors, Minors and Courses have been increasingly concerned about the shortage of seats in high demand courses. Together these groups have recommended five proposals that will help to alleviate the problem. During Spring and Fall 2008, UGC Chair George Gehrels presented the proposals and gathered input from academic advisors, ASUA, and student affairs groups.

Beginning in Fall 2009 students will be charged a Late Course Drop Fee of \$25. Students may drop courses without penalty through the first week of the fall and spring semesters. Beginning the second week and continuing through the last day of classes, a \$25 penalty fee will be charged to the student per student-initiated drop and per administrative drop (but not for a department drop or section change). This penalty does not apply to summer or winter sessions, or to courses with non-standard start and end dates. It also does not apply to complete withdrawals from the University.

Also approved for Fall 2009 implementation is a Maximum Unit Limit during Priority Registration. To increase course accessibility and decrease course hoarding during the 5 weeks of Priority Registration on WebReg, a 16-unit cap will be placed on all continuing students, with one exception—students who are active participants in the Honors Program. Following the Priority Registration period, all continuing students will have access to WebReg to add additional units, if they wish, up to the 19-unit maximum set by their college. **While this change has been approved by the appropriate governing bodies, UITS is working on implementation via WebReg so please hold off alerting students for now.** A 3D Memo will be sent to the campus community when we are certain that the system can enforce the limit.

The following policy proposals are currently under consideration. If approved, a 3D Memo will be sent notifying the UA community and giving an effective date or term, along with an implementation plan.

1. Revision of Course Repeat Policy— A student may attempt the same course at the University no more than twice, whether the student completes the course with a passing or failing grade or whether the student withdraws (or is administratively dropped) from the course. Thus, a student who drops a course any time after the first withdrawal deadline (e.g., beginning of the fifth week of the semester) has had one attempt with that course. Repeating a course with the Grade Replacement Opportunity (GRO) also counts as an attempt.

Excluded from the count of attempts is a complete withdrawal from the University, a course cancelation by the department offering the course, and courses that are designated as repeatable for credit.

Original grades of A or B may not be repeated, except as specifically provided by departments on a course-by-course basis. When a completed course with a passing or failing grade is repeated without use of the GRO, the cumulative grade-point-average (GPA) will reflect the grades earned in the first and second attempts. Credit will be allowed only once unless the course is designated repeatable for credit by the department

2. Revision of the GRO Policy— Students will no longer be able to GRO a course for which they received a grade of C. Only freshmen and sophomores (i.e., students who have completed fewer than 60 credits) may GRO a course. Courses taken or repeated by juniors or seniors (i.e., students who have completed 60 or more credits) may be retaken in accordance with the Course Repeat Policy but without use of the GRO.

3. Extension of WebReg Access for Adding Courses— Students may add classes to their schedule using WebReg for the first week of the fall and spring semesters, plus one class day: Fall—Monday through Monday, 7 AM – 8 PM; and Spring—Wednesday through Thursday, 7 AM – 8 PM (the additional day is in recognition of the MLK Jr. Holiday closure). Note: This change will be most effective in tandem with the Late Course Drop Fee.