



Procedure Number: SS 202

Procedure Title: Academic Fresh Start

Relevant Board Policy: F.4.1.2 Amendments to Student Records

Relevant SACSCOC Principle: 12.1 Academic and Student Support Services

Originating Unit: Admissions & Records

Maintenance Unit: Admissions & Records

Contact for Interpretation: David Wessler

Purpose: Senate Bill 1321 entitles resident of the state of Texas to seek admission to public institutions of higher education without consideration of courses undertaken ten or more years prior to enrollment.

The bill has been called the “right to an academic fresh start” and it gives students the option of electing to have course work taken ten or more years prior to the starting date of the semester, in which the applicant seeks to enroll either counted as usual or ignored for admission purposes.

Applicants who elect to apply for admission under this law and who are admitted as students may not receive any courses credit for courses undertaken ten or more years prior to enrollment.

The College seeks to provide a supportive and challenging environment in which the student can improve their basic intellectual skills and equip them for a fulfilling life and responsible citizenship in a world characterized by change.

In order to enhance that potential for academic success, the College has established the “fresh start” program.

Procedure:

The “Academic Fresh Start” option permits forgiveness of previously recorded substandard academic performances which may not be reflective of a student’s current academic ability.

The “fresh start” procedures will permit previously recorded substandard course work to be disregarded in the computation of the college grade point averages (GPA).

The student will meet with the Director of Enrollment to go through the requirements of the program and determine if it is in the student’s best interest.

In order to qualify for “fresh start” status all of the following conditions must be met:

1. A student must submit a written petition to the Admission & Records Office requesting that all course work undertaken ten or more years prior to the enrollment is disregarded.

2. A student may be granted “fresh start” status only once at this institution.
3. Academic Fresh Start is not Applicable for anyone with a degree or credential.
4. If and when the petition is granted, the student’s permanent record will be annotated so that it is readily evident to all users of the record that no credit for work taken during the specified semester(s), even if satisfactory, will apply toward graduation, evaluation, residency or for any other purpose. However, all credits will remain legible on the permanent record to ensure a true and complete academic history.
5. All academic records approved for fresh start will be sealed and cannot be used for future education or employment purposes.
6. Students approved for “fresh start” are not authorized to pick and choose course work which will be disregarded. All credits to include transfer and non-transfer awarded credit will be disregarded if they were earned ten or more years prior to the starting date of the semester in which “fresh start” status was approved.
7. Student is responsible for notifying Veteran’s and Student Financial Services Offices since benefits may also be affected.
8. All official transcripts should be on file.

Attachment: Academic Fresh Start request form

Originator: David Wessler

Date Approved: April 15, 2019

Last Updated: April 15, 2019

Approved: _____

Title: