

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

Motion: The APC voted unanimously to approve the amendment to the Academic Forgiveness Policy cited below.

Rationale: The amendment to item #2 in the Explanations and Restrictions section was made to recognize that 12 credits represents one regular semester of full-time enrollment and therefore is a sufficient minimum for establishing whether a student should qualify for academic forgiveness. In addition, students may be restricted from accessing certain types of financial aid, such as military benefits, based on their cumulative GPA; limiting the period a student needs to attend prior to being eligible for forgiveness to the equivalent of one semester reduces the amount of time a student would need to forgo those benefits.

Academic Forgiveness Policy

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for forgiveness, a former degree candidate must:

1. Not have graduated from UW-Milwaukee or have earned a baccalaureate degree from any other institution.
2. Not have been enrolled as a degree- or non-degree-seeking student at UW-Milwaukee or any other academic institution for a period of *three consecutive years any time between initial enrollment at UWM and readmission*. Enrollment in any credit course through any academic institution disrupts the required three-year non-enrollment period, even if the student withdrew from the course(s).
3. Be readmitted to UW-Milwaukee as a degree-seeking student, and
4. Have a cumulative grade-point average below a 2.00 at the time of readmission.

EXPLANATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

1. The “Academic Forgiveness Period” is defined as all academic work completed at UWM prior to the three-year period of no enrollment.
2. After readmission, students must earn a GPA of 2.5 or higher in the first 12 earned credits at UW-Milwaukee BEFORE applying for academic forgiveness.
3. Academic forgiveness does not adjust the GPA and number of credits attempted and counted toward Satisfactory Academic Progress for financial aid.
4. All other University policies (for example, UW-Milwaukee Repeat Policy) remain in effect and are not changed by the academic forgiveness policy.

5. To be eligible for a degree, students must complete a minimum of 30 credits at UW-Milwaukee after the granting of academic forgiveness.
6. If a student seeks admission to a degree program other than the one that granted his/her academic forgiveness, that school or college has the right to consider all coursework and grades, including those academically forgiven, in making its admission determination.

IMPACT OF ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS ON THE STUDENT'S RECORD

1. A notation in the remarks area of the student's transcript indicates academic forgiveness. All courses taken and grades earned during the Academic Forgiveness Period will continue to appear on the student's record, but the grades of all classes taken during the Academic Forgiveness Period will be excluded from the student's cumulative grade-point average.
2. All grades earned in courses that were taken during the Academic Forgiveness Period will be excluded from the student's cumulative grade point average. Students may not retain grades earned in some courses within the Academic Forgiveness Period and have academic forgiveness applied to others.
3. If academic forgiveness is granted, credit hours earned during the Academic Forgiveness Period may be used to satisfy degree requirements even though they are not included in calculating the student's total GPA.

REPEAT REQUESTS

Students may be granted only one Academic Forgiveness.

PROCEDURES

1. Student obtains an application from the Registrar's Office and brings the form, a degree audit, and an unofficial transcript to the adviser.
2. If the adviser and the student agree it is beneficial, the application then must be approved by the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled.
3. The form is filed with the Registrar's Office, the student's record is updated, and the student can access an updated transcript on PAWS.

ADVISING

1. While courses with a credit-worthy grade (i.e., those with grades of "S", "CR", and "D-" or better) completed during the Academic Forgiveness Period may be used to satisfy degree requirements, none of these grades will be included in the student's cumulative grade point average. However, program requirements must be followed when a minimum course grade is specified.

2. It is necessary for the student to meet with an academic adviser to consider carefully the advantages and disadvantages of academic forgiveness in relation to his/her academic record and progress toward a degree. For example, if the student has taken courses within a possible Academic Forgiveness Period that are having a positive impact on his/her cumulative GPA, academic forgiveness might not be the best course of action; course-specific repeats might be a better option.

Academic Policy Committee

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