

REVISE THE COURSE REPEAT POLICY AND CAP POLICY

Two Proposals from the Academic Standards
Committee, November 13, 2014

Genesis of the Proposals & Proposal Development Process

- The 2013-2018 Auburn University Strategic Plan establishes promoting academic success as its first priority. It includes the following:
 - ▣ Strategic Goal 1: “The University will emphasize student retention and achievement by encouraging and expecting timely degree completion and by clearing pathways to student success.”
- One means of furthering that goal is to review academic policies that may **unintentionally** delay students' progress toward obtaining their Bachelor's degree.

Current the course repeat policy

Repeat of Courses

- *No student may repeat a course for credit in which the student has previously earned a grade of A, B, or C without written permission by the student's academic dean. Courses specifically designated as repeatable in the Auburn University Bulletin are exempt from this regulation. Students may repeat courses in which they earn a grade of D or F. Grades and hours for both attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA unless the Grade Adjustment Policy has been invoked for the first attempt. If the grade adjustment policy is not invoked in the case of the repeat of a D grade, then the course credit hours may count only once toward graduation unless the course is designated as repeatable. (2014-2015 AU Bulletin).*

Problems and Fact of Repeating Courses

- **The policy places no limits on the number of times a student who has earned a D/F in a course may attempt to pass it.**
- A review of student records by the staff of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment indicates that between Fall 2007 and Spring 2014, approximately 6% of students (3,244) had taken a non-repeatable course three or more times.
- Typically, the courses repeated were Calculus III, Differential Equations, or English Composition II.

Problem and Fact of Repeating Courses

- **Review selected transcripts:** more than one student who has taken the same course **seven times**. In one such case the course was Thermodynamics, in which the student received four Fs, two Ds, and a C; in another case a student earned seven Fs in Linear Differential Equations.
- In cases in which a student has repeated a course multiple times, it is very likely that **a better course of action** would have been for the student to have been **counseled to change his or her major to a discipline that would more closely match his or her talents**. Such conversations are difficult to have, but they could help put a student on a path toward achieving academic and career success and save a student thousands of dollars.

Recommended **Course Repeat** Policy:

Repeat of Courses

- No student may repeat a course for credit in which the student has previously earned a grade of A, B, or C without written permission by the student's academic dean. Courses specifically designated as repeatable in the Auburn University Bulletin are exempt from this regulation. **Students may repeat only once courses in which they earn a grade of D or F without written permission from the student's academic dean. The student is encouraged to seek career counseling from the Auburn University Career Center prior to meeting with the academic dean.** Grades and hours for both attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA unless the Grade Adjustment Policy has been invoked for the first attempt. If the grade adjustment policy is not invoked in the case of the repeat of a D grade, then the course credit hours may count only once toward graduation unless the course is designated as repeatable.

Rationale: *Revised course repeat policy*

- The revision would limit the number of times a student could take a class (**twice** without written permission from the student's academic dean)
- If a student failed a course or got D or F twice, it is necessary or better for the student to get permission for the student's academic dean if the student wants to retake the course in the third time.
- It would also provide an avenue through which an academic associate dean might grant the student permission to take the course an additional time if circumstances warranted.
- The “W” or withdrawal grade does not count towards the repeat of courses.

Rationale: *Revised course repeat policy*

- Revised policy provides an opportunity for the student to think about or examine whether current major is suitable for the student.
- It provides an opportunity for the student's academic dean to give necessary advice and guidance to the student.
- Revised policy promotes appropriate and better advising to a student for the student's career path. The provost office provides trainings to professional advisers at Auburn University.

Practicalities: *Revised course repeat policy*

- If a student got D or F twice for the same course, the student will need to get a permission from the student's academic dean if the student wants to retake the course in the third time.
- The student is encouraged to seek career counseling from the Auburn University Career Center prior to meeting with the academic dean.
- This revision has been discussed with the Provost, the University Registrar, the Academic Associate Deans, and some academic advisors, and it has received generally strong support.

Statement in Current CAP Policy

POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING OR CHANGING THE ENROLLMENT CAP OF AN UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR

- **1. Policy**
- Based on its land-grant traditions of service and access, according to its mission statement, Auburn University will provide students broad access to the institution's educational resources. Therefore, as a basic principle, students **who are in good standing** should be allowed access to the majors of their choice, subject to constraint of educational resources, including insufficient numbers of faculty to provide a quality learning experience to all who wish to enroll.

Fact and Problems of Current Policy

- Some academic units which do not have specific enrollment caps are not allowing students on academic warning to transfer into programs.
- When a student's cumulative GPA is less than 2.0, the student is placed at academic warning, which is not "in good standing"..
- Students currently enrolled but on academic warning are restricted from a large array of majors.
- It means that students cannot take courses from another major to explore whether another major is more suitable for them.
- The policy restricts students to take certain courses to improve their GPA and to not be able to explore another major. This creates unfavorable conditions for students to complete their college degrees.
- The practice using good standing or $GPA \geq 2.0$ is fairly widespread on campus (involving primarily two colleges).
- When the Cap policy was developed several years ago, this issue was not thought about.

Revised Statement in CAP Policy

POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING OR CHANGING THE ENROLLMENT CAP OF AN UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR

- **1. Policy**
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Rationale: Revised Statement

- Students who are eligible to take classes and pursue an Auburn degree (but who may be on Academic Warning because their GPA has fallen below 2.0) are still eligible to change majors.
- Revised statement is related to university level “Cap” policy.

Recommendations from the Committee

- Two policy proposals or changes were discussed, revised, and approved unanimously by the Academic Standards Committee on October 20 , 2014.
- The committee members who did not attend the meeting also sent emails to vote and support the policy changes.