

Proposed Policy Revision: **Changing the Course** **Withdrawal Deadline**



University Senate Meeting

Current Policy

No grade penalty is assigned for dropping a course **on or before mid-term**. A student who withdraws from a course prior to the 15th class day during fall or spring semester will have no grade assignment; however, **after the first 15 days a W (Withdrawn Passing) grade will be recorded for the course**. For the summer terms, all withdrawals with no W grade assignment must be processed prior to the fifth class day.

A course may be dropped with a W **after midterm only under unusual conditions** such as serious illness of the student, serious illness or death of a member of the student's immediate family or other seriously disruptive circumstances. When approval for dropping the course under such circumstances is granted by the student's dean, a W may be assigned only when the instructor indicates that the student is clearly passing the course. Otherwise, a grade of WF (Withdrawn Failing) is assigned.

Proposed policy



No grade penalty is assigned for dropping a course **on or before the last business day prior to the opening of registration for the following term**. A student who withdraws from a course prior to the 15th class day during fall or spring semester will have no grade assignment; however, after the first 15 days a W (Withdrawn Passing) grade will be recorded for the course. For the summer terms, all withdrawals with no W grade assignment must be processed prior to the fifth class day.

A course may be dropped with a W **after the mid-semester withdrawal deadline only under unusual conditions** such as serious illness of the student, serious illness or death of a member of the student's immediate family or other seriously disruptive circumstances. When approval for dropping the course under such circumstances is granted by the student's dean, a W may be assigned only when the instructor indicates that the student is clearly passing the course. Otherwise, a grade of WF (Withdrawn Failing) is assigned.

In practical terms



In Fall 2016, course registration for Spring 2017 will begin on **Monday, November 7.**

Proposed last day to withdraw from a course: **Friday, November 4**

Current last day to withdraw from a course: **Wednesday, October 5**

Change: 22 additional class days.

NOTE: Registration for Spring semester begins on the first Monday of November; registration for Summer and Fall semesters begins on the First Monday of April.

Rationale



- ✦ Faculty would have more time to provide graded feedback to students prior to the withdrawal deadline.
- ✦ Students would have more time to determine whether adjustments in their study habits would result in greater success in the course, potentially resulting in fewer course drops and more likely four-year degree completion.
- ✦ Students would have more time to discuss a possible course withdrawal with their professors, advisors, and parents about its implications on their time to degree, progression in the major, financial aid status, and other concerns.
- ✦ A survey of peer institutions suggests that withdrawal dates during week 11 are typical.

Peer Institutions



- ✦ Auburn University: End of 7th week
- ✦ Univ. of Alabama: End of 10th week
- ✦ Univ. of Georgia: End of 10th week
- ✦ University of Florida: 12th week*
- ✦ Univ. of Kentucky: End of 11th week
- ✦ Univ. of Missouri: End of 5th week
- ✦ Univ. of South Carolina: End of 7th week
- ✦ University of Tennessee: 12th week
- ✦ Vanderbilt University: End of 9th week
- ✦ University of Arkansas: End of 14th week
- ✦ Louisiana State Univ.: End of 11th week*
- ✦ Univ. of Mississippi: Beginning of 7th week
- ✦ Mississippi State Univ.: End of 8th week
- ✦ Texas A&M Univ.: End of 12th week
- ✦ Clemson Univ.: Beginning of 11th week

* U of F and LSU also place restrictions on the total number of W's a student may earn.



Questions?