



AOP 12.17: Undergraduate Academic Fresh-Start or Academic Amnesty

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Academic Operating Policy and Procedure (AOP) is to assist undergraduate students in making timely progress toward obtaining their first baccalaureate degree by invoking either a fresh start or amnesty.

REVIEW

This AOP will be reviewed every four years or whenever circumstances require an earlier review by the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs (APAA) with recommendations for revision presented to the Provost and Executive Vice President.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

Academic Fresh Start and Academic Amnesty are designed to provide former undergraduate students, either at Mississippi State University or elsewhere, an opportunity to reenter higher education at Mississippi State University without the burden of past low grades. Students admitted under these policies must complete current curriculum requirements in residency to earn a degree. This policy pertains only to Mississippi State University and students should be advised that they may not be honored in other institutions of higher learning.

A. Academic Fresh Start

To be eligible for Academic Fresh Start, an individual must be pursuing their first baccalaureate degree and may not have attended any post-secondary institution of higher education for a period of at least twenty-four consecutive months. The individual may petition for admission or readmission through their academic dean's office under the academic fresh-start policy. If the academic dean approves the petition, all college credits earned prior to being granted academic fresh-start will be eliminated from the computation of the student's grade point average and may never be used toward graduation at Mississippi State University.

The student's transcript will reflect the complete academic record but will contain the notation at the appropriate point that all academic work prior to the consecutive twenty-four months absence would be declared void for the purposes of academic standing and graduation. The notation will be made upon the successful completion (GPA 2.00 or better) of at least 12 credit hours at Mississippi State University.

B. Academic Amnesty

To be eligible for Academic Amnesty, an individual must be pursuing their first baccalaureate degree and may not have attended any post-secondary institution of higher education for a period of at least five years. The individual may petition for admission or readmission through the student's academic dean's office under the academic amnesty policy at any time up until the end of the semester preceding that in which the student graduates. If the academic dean approves the petition, a student may have specific previously completed courses, where grades of D or F were assigned, eliminated from the computation of his or her grade point average. These eliminated courses may never be used toward graduation at Mississippi State University.

Academic amnesty will be applied to the student's record only once, and the new grade point average will be noted on the transcript at the end of the semester during which the request was approved. The notation will be made upon successful completion (GPA 2.00 or better) of at least 12 credit hours at Mississippi State University.

RECOMMENDED BY:

/s/ Peter L. Ryan
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

01/05/2017
Date

/s/ Judy Bonner
Provost and Executive Vice President

02/12/2017
Date

/s/ Cody P. Coyne
President, Robert Holland Faculty Senate

02/13/2017
Date

REVIEWED BY:

/s/ Timothy N. Chamblee
Assistant Vice President and Director
Institutional Research and Effectiveness

02/15/2017
Date

/s/ Joan Lucas
General Counsel

03/09/2017
Date

APPROVED:

/s/ Mark Keenum
President

03/23/2017
Date