



**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.

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. These policies pertain 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 Mississippi State University 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.

When submitting the petition, the student must specifically identify the twenty-four consecutive months of their absence that they wish to be used in evaluating their petition. All courses taken during the identified twenty-four consecutive months and all courses taken prior to that period will be eliminated from the student's grade point average and may never be used towards 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 Mississippi State University for a period of at least four consecutive 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. When submitting a petition, the student must specifically identify the four consecutive years of their absence they wish to be used in evaluating their petition. If the academic dean approves the petition, all credits earned, regardless of grade, during the specified four consecutive years will be eliminated from the student's grade point average and may never be used towards graduation at Mississippi State University. In addition, a student may have specific previously completed courses, in which grades of D or F were assigned, eliminated from the computation of his or her grade point average. These eliminated courses may also 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.

REVIEW

This AOP will be reviewed every four years or whenever circumstances require an earlier review by the Executive Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate School with recommendations for revision presented to the Provost and Executive Vice President.

REVIEWED

/s/ Peter Ryan
Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

1/25/2021
Date

/s/ David Shaw
Provost and Executive Vice President

1/25/2021
Date

/s/ Rebecca Robichaux-Davis
President, Robert Holland Faculty Senate

1/25/2021
Date

/s/ Tracey N. Baham
Director, Institutional Research and Effectiveness

1/25/2021
Date

/s/ Joan Lucas
General Counsel

1/25/2021
Date

APPROVED

/s/ Mark Keenum
President

1/25/2021
Date