**Proposal to Revise the 18-unit Cap on Withdrawals Policy**

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*On behalf of the*

*University Academic Advising Council*

*Date: March 23, 2020*

**Proposed Policy / Policy Update:**

Under the current withdrawal policy students can withdraw from a total of 18 units (e.g. six 3-unit courses). Two aspects of the policy warrant review.

The first is regarding students who are returning to complete a second bachelor’s degree. The count for the 18-unit limit of W grades should be reset to zero for UA alum who return to pursue a second degree.

The second aspect for review concerns the 18-unit limit.

W Grade Unit Maximum: The number of undergraduate course withdrawals (drops) cannot exceed ~~18 units~~ **6 courses** during the student’s undergraduate ~~career~~ degree program. The ~~18-unit~~ **6 course** maximum applies to all courses dropped with a W grade. The W grade is awarded for all withdrawals between the first and final withdrawal deadlines – from the third week through the thirteenth week of a regular semester (including those awarded for administrative drops or for approved Late Change Petitions).

**Rationale:**

Resetting the Cap to Zero for a Second Degree: University of Arizona alumnus should be allowed, even encouraged, to return for a second degree and experience the same privileges as a new transfer student and have the benefit of 18 units of W, should they need it. These returning students are now juggling family and work balance along with the work for a second degree. They need to have the ability to withdraw from a course when life circumstances dictate such and should not be held back from a previous academic record where they may have used some, or all of the W grade.

Changing Unit Cap to a Course Cap: Programs in Engineering, Science, Humanities, and others require a significant number of 4- and 5- unit courses in their programs. Students can retain scholarships, financial aid, continue at the UA, and other factors that contribute to persistence when they are able to maintain their GPA and are able to withdraw from a course when necessary, often for medical reasons. Arguably some of the more challenging courses are the 4- and 5- unit courses in science and language arts.

**Implementation Plan:**

* UAccess modification to reset 18 unit cap to zero upon return for second degree and to change unit cap to a course cap.
* Adjust catalog policy.

**Proposed Effective Term:**

AY 20-21. Grandfather all current students to 6 course cap.