

Policy Proposal: Repeating a Course and Grade Replacement

The Academic Advising Committee has requested a policy change to remove the 3-course limit on grade replacement, and to make grade replacement an automatic (rather than student-initiated) process.

In addition to addressing advising's request, the goal is to review the policy and ensure our systems and practice align.

Discussion Questions:

- Should GPA be determined based on a limited number of repeats across the undergraduate experience? OR Should GPA be determined by grade forgiveness for all allowable course repeats?
- Should the policy be updated to only allow students to repeat grades of D or lower, or keep the current allowance of C or lower?
- Should the GPA be calculated based on the *highest* grade or the *last* grade for a course?
- Should we re-examine what is considered an attempt (e.g., W grades count as one of a student's 2 attempts, while WC grades do not)?
- If grade replacement is made automatic, how should courses that are repeatable for credit/special topics courses be treated?

Recent amendments to policy, effective Spring 2023:

- Eliminated restriction on GRO once a student has earned 60 units
- GRO policy integrated with Repeating a Course policy

Subcommittee discussion from spring 2022:

- It was questioned why students are limited to 3 GROs and what the result would be if this limit was removed. Speculation that it may have been created as a safeguard to stop students from "digging themselves into a financial hole" from paying tuition to retake the same course/ not make progress toward graduation.
- Brief discussion on whether W grades should no longer count as course attempts (even when taken as a GRO). Some felt this could result in a loop of students applying for GRO, doing poorly, withdrawing, and repeating. Is there a point at which we shouldn't allow this? This benefits students for whom finances are not an obstacle and punishes others.
 - One member felt the distinction between WC and W could disproportionately affect first generation students who haven't learned to "game the system".

Current disconnect between policy and system configurations:

- Policy permits 2 attempts per course, but system setup allows 3 attempts.
- Policy permits course repeats where the first attempt earned a grade of C or lower, but system setup also allows course repeats where the first attempt earned a grade of A or B.