

Message to Graduate Students about Unforeseen Circumstances

The result of not formally withdrawing from a course is a letter grade of “F”. In the graduate program you can repeat a course but the grades are then “AVERAGED” not replaced as in the undergrad program.

Academic Requirements for Graduate Work

Good Standing: Graduate students, including degree-seeking, certificate-seeking, and non-degree-seeking students, are considered in “good academic standing,” making satisfactory academic progress, if they maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) on all graduate course work and earn a grade of S (Satisfactory), IP (In Progress), or CR (Credit) on all course work that does not affect grade point average.

Minimum grade requirement. Only grades of A, B, C, S, and CR are acceptable for graduate credit. IP is considered acceptable with respect to the minimum grade requirement. Grades of D, F, U (Unsatisfactory) or NC (No Credit) are not accepted for graduate credit at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. No more than two grades of C will be accepted as credit for any graduate program.

Repetition of a Course to Raise a Grade: A course in which the final grade is C or lower may be repeated for a higher grade. A course in which the final grade is a B may be repeated for a higher grade only with the permission of the Graduate Dean. A graduate student may retake a maximum of two courses during graduate study in the University. The student may repeat each course only one time. **All grades received for the course will be computed in the grade point average. (Graduate Catalog)**

<http://catalog.tamucc.edu/index.php>

This means that if you get an “F” and then repeat the course and get an “A” you will earn a Grade Point Average (GPA) of a “C”. When a student receives a “C” in the graduate program it almost always pulls down your GPA to less than 3.0, which is enough to put that student on academic probation. This is extremely problematic for students who have, up to a point, been doing rather well and are maintaining above a 3.0 average which is required to graduate.

However, a few of our students have had job changes, deaths in the family, or medical illnesses after beginning a semester and have found that they have been unable to give the time necessary to continue their work in our graduate program . It is extremely important, if you find yourself in this situation, you withdraw immediately when there is still time. A withdrawal without failure does not hurt your GPA.

To not do so is very difficult for students who are close to completing their course work. To make up those “F’s” there may be no additional courses for you to take and then you will be unable to finish the degree. The graduate catalog states:

A student must achieve a cumulative 3.0 GPA (or higher GPA if required by the program) within completion of the next 9 semester credit hours to be removed from scholastic probation if scholastic probation was due to unsatisfactory GPA.

We do realize this may have some effect on your financial aid or scholarship monies but it is better than finding out you have completed and paid for most of your classes but cannot get back into the program to finish your degree.

So please, make every effort to stay in your courses and complete the work. If a problem does arise and you cannot continue, be sure to withdraw before the last day to do so (Academic Calendar found at http://registrar.tamucc.edu/academic_policies/withdrawal.html) and a grade is issued. The University Catalog states:

“Withdrawal from the University

A student who finds it necessary to withdraw from the University during a given semester or term must complete and submit a Withdrawal Authorization Form to the Office of the University Registrar. The deadline for withdrawing from the University is the day before the last day of classes during a long semester (Fall or Spring), and the day before final examinations during a summer session. Failure to file a Withdrawal Authorization Form can result in grades of "F" being assigned to all courses in progress.”

Once your issue is resolved there is a means to be reinstated to the program with the same standing achieved at the end of the semester prior to withdrawal.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Dee Edgar, 361-825-5850. It is the desire of the entire GSEN faculty and staff to help our students be successful in their graduate education and to complete their degree.

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