

MEMORANDUM

To: Jake Fox, President of the Faculty Senate

From: Matthew Brunner, Registrar, on behalf of the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee

Date: April 4, 2018

RE: Intersession Course Withdrawals Proposal

Proposal: To no longer count course withdrawals in the intersessions (Wintermester and summer sessions) against the five individual course withdrawal limit.

Current Policy:

“Withdrawals from courses during Wintermester and summer sessions are individual course withdrawals, even if the student withdraws from all courses in which he/she is enrolled. These withdrawals do count against the five withdrawal limit. Although – for financial aid and other reasons – this action must be handled administratively as a University Withdrawal.”

Proposed Change:

“Withdrawals from courses during Wintermester and summer sessions ~~are individual course withdrawals, even if the student withdraws from all courses in which he/she is enrolled. These withdrawals~~ do not count against the five withdrawal limit. Although – for financial aid and other reasons – this action must be handled administratively as a University Withdrawal.”

Rationale: This policy change is a compromise that came out of the Removing Barriers to Student Success subcommittee of the Council on Student Engagement and Success Committee. The subcommittee first considered eliminating the 5 individual course withdrawal limit altogether to align ourselves with the vast majority of the other state 4-year institutions and our peer institutions, but it was determined that such a change ought to be incremental. Therefore, it was proposed to not count course withdrawals in the intersessions against the individual course withdrawal limit. This change not only gives students more flexibility in the intersessions, but it should also encourage students to take more courses in the intersession without fear of possibly having to use one or more of their individual course withdrawals.

Memorandum

To: Jake Fox, President of the Faculty Senate

From: Matthew Brunner, Registrar, on behalf of the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee

Date: April 4, 2018

RE: Eliminate the First Semester to Complete an Associate's Degree Policy

Proposal: To eliminate the policy that states a student must have earned their associates degree by the end of their first semester of enrollment at Radford. The current policy is:

“State Policy on Transfer

To encourage the transfer of students from the Virginia Community College System to Radford University, the State Policy on Transfer has been embraced by Radford University, effective fall 1993. A student who transfers to Radford University from a Virginia Community College will be considered to have satisfied Radford's Core Curriculum requirements if any of the following is met:

- the student has by the time of transfer earned an associate degree from a Virginia community college based on a baccalaureate-oriented sequence of courses (i.e., the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or Associate of Arts and Science); or
- the student is able to earn such a degree by successfully completing at a Virginia community college courses remaining for the associate degree concurrently with the first semester of enrollment at Radford; or
- the student will earn an associate degree as a result of credit earned during his or her first semester of enrollment at Radford, up to a maximum of 10 hours.”

The proposed change:

“State Policy on Transfer

To encourage the transfer of students from the Virginia Community College System to Radford University, the State Policy on Transfer has been embraced by Radford University, effective fall 1993. A student who transfers to Radford University from a Virginia Community College will be considered to have satisfied Radford's Core Curriculum requirements if any of the following is met:

- the student has by the time of transfer earned an associate degree from a Virginia community college based on a baccalaureate-oriented sequence of courses (i.e., the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or Associate of Arts and Science); or

- the student is able to earn such a degree by successfully completing the remaining requirements ~~before completing a bachelor's degree at Radford University. or at a Virginia community college courses remaining for the associate degree concurrently with the first semester of enrollment at Radford; or~~
- ~~the student will earn an associate degree as a result of credit earned during his or her first semester of enrollment at Radford, up to a maximum of 10 hours.~~

Rationale:

The current policy has been waived by academic petition 33 times in the last five years. This policy change will encourage more students to earn associates degrees while they pursue a bachelor's degree here at Radford University. This, in turn, will strengthen our relationship with Virginia community colleges by helping them with their student graduation rates.

Memorandum

To: Jake Fox, President of the Faculty Senate

From: Matthew Brunner, Registrar, on behalf of the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee

Date: April 4, 2018

RE: To eliminate the “30 of 39” policy

Proposal: To eliminate the policy that requires students to complete their last 30 of 39 credit hours for their degree in residency. The current policy is:

“Degree Requirements

No fewer than 45 semester hours must be earned at Radford University to be eligible for graduation. Thirty of the last 39 hours of credit required for the degree must be completed in residency. In addition, 50 percent of the semester hours required for a major or minor (as defined by the department) must be taken at Radford University and no more than six (6) credit hours of Independent Study coursework can be used toward graduation requirements.”

The proposed change:

“Degree Requirements

No fewer than 45 ~~credit semester~~ hours must be earned at Radford University to be eligible for graduation. ~~Thirty of the last 39 hours of credit required for the degree must be completed in residency. In addition, Fifty~~ percent of the credit ~~semester~~ hours required for a major or minor (as defined by the department) must be taken at Radford University and no more than six (6) credit hours of Independent Study coursework can be used toward graduation requirements.

Rationale: The current policy has been waived by academic petition 29 times in the last five years. This change will allow students more flexibility in earning their degrees from Radford University without reducing the number of required residency credit hours for the major/minor (50%) or for the degree (45). It simply permits students to freely choose *when* they want to take courses at another institution to complete their degree requirements.

MEMORANDUM

To: Jake Fox, Faculty Senate President

From: Matthew Brunner, Registrar, on behalf of the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee

Date: April 4, 2018

RE: Academic Renewal Policy Change Proposal

Proposal: To allow students to apply for academic renewal after two full calendar years, instead of four.

Current Policy:

Academic Renewal Policy

The Academic Renewal Policy is designed to benefit students who are returning to the university to continue pursuit of an initial undergraduate degree at Radford University after an extended absence of no less than four calendar years and whose cumulative GPA when they were last enrolled was less than a 2.0. (Students may use academic renewal only once.) Students who meet these conditions may apply for academic renewal simultaneously with their application for readmission. Such applications are made to the Office of the Registrar.

Academic renewal permits eligible students to re-enroll at the university to begin their studies anew. Under the provisions of academic renewal:

- a. All previously earned letter grades remain on the student's official transcript, but the student carries no GPA at the time of re-enrollment.
- b. The student retains credit hours for all courses passed with a grade of "C" or better. The student loses credit for courses passed with a grade of "C-" or lower.

If academic renewal is granted, a student must earn a 2.0 grade point average or better for the first 12 hours attempted upon returning. Failure to do so will result in academic dismissal from the university and being ineligible for readmission. Students who have returned under the academic renewal policy must earn 60 credit hours after returning to be eligible to graduate with Latin Honors.

Proposed Change:

Academic Renewal Policy

The Academic Renewal Policy is designed to benefit students who are returning to the university to continue pursuit of an initial undergraduate degree at Radford University after an extended absence of no less than two calendar years and whose cumulative GPA when they were last enrolled was less than a 2.0. (Students may use academic renewal only once.) Students who meet these conditions may apply for academic renewal simultaneously with their application for readmission. Such applications are made to the Office of the Registrar.

Academic renewal permits eligible students to re-enroll at the university to begin their studies anew. Under the provisions of academic renewal:

- a. All previously earned letter grades remain on the student's official transcript, but the student carries no GPA at the time of re-enrollment.
- b. The student retains credit hours for all courses passed with a grade of "C" or better. The student loses credit for courses passed with a grade of "C-" or lower.

If academic renewal is granted, a student must earn a 2.0 grade point average or better for the first 12 hours attempted upon returning. Failure to do so will result in academic suspension. Students who have returned under the academic renewal policy must earn 60 credit hours after returning to be eligible to graduate with Latin Honors.

Rationale: The Academic Policies and Procedures Committee determined that two full calendar years was sufficient time away from Radford University in order for a student to return under the conditions of Academic Renewal. This change will also encourage students to return to Radford University instead of attending another four-year institution where they could also re-start their higher education.

MEMORANDUM

To: Jake Fox, President of the Faculty Senate

From: Matthew Brunner, Registrar, on behalf of the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee

Date: April 4, 2018

RE: Suspension Policy Change Proposal

Proposal: To change the current suspension policy to include: (1) elimination of the new student suspension policy; (2) suspension after the spring term only; (3) elimination of permanent dismissal, and; (4) a suspension appeals process.

Current Policy:

New Student Policy

Any new (freshman or transfer), full-time (as of census date) student who has a GPA below 1.00 at the conclusion of the first semester of enrollment will be suspended. The student will not be allowed to continue in the next Wintermester and spring semester (if the student first enrolled in the fall) or summer sessions and fall semester (if the student first enrolled in the spring).

No exceptions to the academic suspension policy will be made for new students.

Continuing Student Policy

The academic suspension threshold for continuing students is determined by the number of hours attempted, according to the following scale:

Hours Attempted	Cumulative GPA Required to Avoid Suspension
13-23	1.00
24-35	1.50
36-47	1.80
48 or more	2.00

Continuing students may attend Wintermester (if suspension follows a fall semester) or summer sessions (if suspension follows spring semester) at Radford University to improve their GPAs and avoid being suspended for the subsequent spring or fall semester. Courses taken at other institutions will not affect the student's Radford University GPA.

No exceptions to the academic suspension policy will be made for continuing students.

Additional Information about Suspension

Multiple Suspensions and Dismissal

A student who has been suspended once for academic reasons, is readmitted, and who falls below the suspension threshold for a second time is eligible for readmission only under the terms of the Academic Renewal Policy. (See below.)

Simultaneous Academic and Disciplinary Suspensions

Occasionally, a student whose actions during a semester result in disciplinary suspension for the following semester subsequently earns grades for the semester that also cause him/her to fall below the academic suspension threshold. In such cases, the following semester's suspension will be considered an academic suspension for the purpose of determining the number of times a student has fallen below the academic suspension threshold.

Terms of Suspension

A student suspended for the first time may not enroll in the next regularly scheduled semester. (Please see [readmission](#) information below.) A student who has been suspended once for academic reasons, is readmitted, and who falls below the suspension threshold for a second time is eligible for readmission only under the terms of the Academic Renewal Policy, which requires an absence from RU of no less than four full calendar years. (See Academic Renewal Policy, below). A student who is readmitted under the terms of the Academic Renewal Policy must earn a 2.0 grade point average or better for the first 12 hours attempted upon returning and must maintain a cumulative grade point average that meets or exceeds the suspension threshold following subsequent semesters. Failure to do so will result in academic dismissal from the University and make the student ineligible for readmission.

Proposed Change:

~~New Student Policy~~

~~Any new (freshman or transfer), full-time (as of census date) student who has a GPA below 1.00 at the conclusion of the first semester of enrollment will be suspended. The~~

~~student will not be allowed to continue in the next Wintermester and spring semester (if the student first enrolled in the fall) or summer sessions and fall semester (if the student first enrolled in the spring).~~

~~No exceptions to the academic suspension policy will be made for new students.~~

Suspension Policy ~~Continuing Student Policy~~

All students must meet the below GPA threshold by the conclusion of each spring term.

Hours Attempted	Cumulative GPA Required to Avoid Suspension
13-23	1.00
24-35	1.50
36-47	1.80
48 or more	2.00

Students may attend summer sessions (excluding Augustmester) at Radford University to improve their GPAs and avoid suspension. Courses taken at other institutions will not affect the student's Radford University GPA.

Additional Information about Suspension

Terms of Suspension

A student suspended for the first time may not enroll in the next regularly scheduled semester. (Please see [readmission](#) information below.) A student who has been suspended for a second or more times may not enroll for one full academic year.

Suspension Appeals Students may submit an Appeal of Suspension to the Suspension Appeals Committee, which includes representation from academic and student affairs, within 10 business days following notification of suspension. Appeals of suspension are not automatically granted. Generally, suspension appeals are only approved when the student is able to sufficiently demonstrate that his/her academic performance suffered as a result of factors outside the student's control and/or the student has shown significant academic progress since falling below the suspension threshold.

Rationale: The overall goals of these policy changes are to: (1) give all students a full academic year to meet academic expectations; (2) allow the university some flexibility to grant exceptions to suspension to students based on their individual circumstances and academic progress, and; (3) allow the University to determine whether or not a student is ready to return to Radford University, regardless of how many times they have been suspended in the past.

The elimination of the new student suspension policy will allow the University to provide support to new students who have not been academically successful in their first term. Currently, new students who earn less than a 1.00 GPA in their first term are immediately suspended and may or may not get the support that they need to be academically successful while away. If they are permitted to remain at RU beyond their first term, they will have resources available to them help them succeed. Moreover, the University will know who these students are and will make sure that they know about the resources available to them.

Suspending students only in the spring term will provide most students two full terms (including summer sessions) to meet the GPA requirements outlined above. It will also allow students who, after the spring term, are eligible to return in the fall to take summer courses without fear of suspension, should they not perform well in those courses. Currently, if a student's cumulative GPA is just above a suspension threshold, they are discouraged from taking summer courses in order to avoid the possibility of suspension. Also, students in good academic standing (2.00 or higher) at the end of a full term can be suspended, having never been on academic probation, if their cumulative GPA drops below a 2.00 after taking just one summer course. This policy change will prevent that from happening.

Eliminating permanent dismissal (or dismissal for 4 academic years) will allow students to show the University, through the readmission process, that they can be academically successful, regardless of how they previously performed at Radford University. Elimination of the dismissal policy does not mean that a student will be automatically readmitted after the suspension period, it merely permits them to apply for readmission and the University to make a determination on that readmission application.

Finally, the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee proposed the creation of a suspension appeals process. Our current policy is unforgivingly rigid. It considers GPAs only and does not allow for the consideration of mitigating factors or individual academic progress. An appeals process will allow the University to look at individual student circumstances and grant exceptions to the suspension policy if students are able to sufficiently demonstrate that their academic performance suffered as a result of factors outside of their control and/or they have made significant academic progress since falling below the suspension threshold.

Virginia Schools	Plus/Minus Grading	Annual Course Withdrawals	First Suspension
Christopher Newport University	Yes	5	One Semester
College of William and Mary	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester
George Mason University	Yes	3	One Semester
James Madison University	No	Unlimited	One Year
Longwood University	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester
Norfolk State University	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester
Old Dominion University	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester
Radford University	Yes	5	One Semester
University of Mary Washington	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester
University of Virginia	Yes	Unlimited	One Year
UVA Wise	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester
Virginia Commonwealth University	No	Unlimited	Two Semesters
Virginia Military Institute	No	Unlimited	One Semester
Virginia State University	No	Unlimited	One Year
Virginia Tech	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester
Peer Institutions			
Bloomsburg University	Yes	Unlimited	One Year
California State University (Chico)	Yes	6	One Year
California State University (San Bernardo)	Yes	6	One Year
Gonzaga University	Yes		
Hofstra University	Yes	Unlimited	
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	No	Unlimited	One Year
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania	Yes	Unlimited	N/A
Loyola Marymount University	Yes	Unlimited	One Year
Minnesota State University	Yes		
St. Cloud State University	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester
Salisbury University	No	Unlimited	Restricted Status
Seattle University	Yes		
The College at Brockport	Yes	Unlimited	One Year
Texas Christian University	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester
The University of Tampa	Yes	Unlimited	One Year
University of Northern Colorado	Yes	Unlimited	One Year
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester
Western Carolina University	Yes	5	One Semester
William Paterson University	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester
Winthrop University	Yes	Unlimited	One Semester

Second Suspension	Dismissal	Academic Renewal	Notes
N/A	Five Years	Five Years	
N/A	Permanent	N/A	
One Year	Three Years	N/A	
Two Years	Permanent	Two Years	
Five Years	N/A	Two Years	
		N/A	
One Year	N/A	One Year	
N/A	Four Years	Four Years	
Two Semesters	Permanent	N/A	
N/A	Permanent	N/A	
One Year	N/A	Five Years	
Five Years	N/A	Five Years	
N/A	Permanent	N/A	
N/A	Permanent	N/A	
Two Semesters	Permanent	Five Years	
N/A	Permanent	N/A	
N/A	Permanent	One Year	
N/A	Permanent	One Year	
N/A	Two Years	Two Years	
N/A	Four Years	Four Years	
One Year	N/A	N/A	
One Year	N/A	Three Years	
N/A	Five Years	Five Years	
N/A	Permanent	One Year	
Two Semesters	N/A	Ten Years	
N/A	N/A	Five Years	
N/A	Permanent	One Year	
One Semester	N/A	Five Years	
N/A	Two Years	Two Years	
One Year	Permanent	Five Years	

Catalog Link
http://cnu.edu/public/undergradcatalog/
http://catalog.wm.edu/
https://catalog.gmu.edu/
https://www.jmu.edu/catalog/
http://www.longwood.edu/media/academic-affairs/public-site/FINAL-DRAFT_2017-2018-Undergraduate-Catalog.pdf
https://www.nsu.edu/getattachment/Academics/Academic-Resources/NSU-Catalog/Undergraduate-Catalog.pdf.aspx
http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/
http://catalog.radford.edu/
http://publications.umw.edu/undergraduate15/files/2015/10/UMW-Undergrad-Catalog-2015-16_FINAL-copy4.pdf
http://records.ureg.virginia.edu/
https://www.uvawise.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017-2018-College-Catalog.pdf
http://bulletin.vcu.edu/
http://catalog.vmi.edu/index.php
http://www.vsu.edu/files/docs/academics/catalog/undergraduate-catalog-2016-2018.pdf
http://www.undergradcatalog.registrar.vt.edu/1718/index.html
http://archive.bloomu.edu/catalog/s2018/index.php
http://catalog.csuchico.edu/viewer/18
http://bulletin.csusb.edu/
https://archive.gonzaga.edu/catalogues/17-18-catalogue/undergraduate/default.asp
http://bulletin.hofstra.edu/
https://www.iup.edu/registrar/catalog/
https://www.kutztown.edu/academics/courses/course-catalog/undergraduate-catalog.htm
http://bulletin.lmu.edu/
http://www.mnsu.edu/supersite/academics/catalogs/undergraduate/2017-2018/2017-18%20UnderGrad_09-28-2017.pdf
https://catalog.stcloudstate.edu/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog
http://www.salisbury.edu/academics/catalog/16-18/Full-Catalog_16-18_sm.pdf
http://catalog.seattleu.edu/
https://www.brockport.edu/academics/catalogs/2017/
file:///C:/Users/msbrunner/Downloads/TCU%20Undergraduate%20Catalog%202017-18.pdf
http://ut.smartcatalogiq.com/current/catalog
http://unco.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/Undergraduate-Catalog
http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/
http://www.uwosh.edu/registrar/undergradbulletins/2017-2019
http://catalog.wcu.edu/
http://academiccatalog.wpunj.edu/index.php?catoid=3
https://www.winthrop.edu/recandreg/default.aspx?id=48055

⌘?lang=en-US

7.pdf

Christopher Newport University

Graduated GPA requirements

No appeal process

Will not accept transfer credit during suspension

http://cnu.edu/public/undergradcatalog/current/pdf/cnu-undergraduate_catalog_17-18.pdf

College of William and Mary

Appeals submitted to the Committee on Academic Status (Dean of Students office)

Will not accept transfer credit during suspension

[http://catalog.wm.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid=2589#Registration and Withdrawal](http://catalog.wm.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid=2589#Registration_and_Withdrawal)

George Mason University

Graduated GPA requirements

No appeal process

Will not accept transfer credit during suspension

<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate-policies/#text>

James Madison University

Graduate GPA requirements

No appeal process

Suspend only at the end of spring term, students may take summer classes to raise GPA

<http://catalog.jmu.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=91>

Longwood University

Modestly graduated GPA requirements

Appeals submitted to the Faculty Petitions Committee

http://www.longwood.edu/media/academic-affairs/public-site/FINAL-DRAFT_2017-2018-Undergraduate-Catalog.pdf

Norfolk State University

Probation and suspension tied to FFA SAP requirements

Appeals submitted to the Suspension Appeals Committee (Registrar's Office)

<https://www.nsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Resources/NSU-Catalog/files/undergraduate/Undergraduate-Catalog-2016-2018.aspx>

Old Dominion University

Appeals submitted to Academic Advising

<http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/academicinformation/>

University of Mary Washington

Graduate GPA requirements

No appeal process

Will not accept transfer credit during suspension

[http://publications.umw.edu/undergraduatecatalog/files/2017/08/Undergrad-Catalog-2017-18 WEB-copy.pdf](http://publications.umw.edu/undergraduatecatalog/files/2017/08/Undergrad-Catalog-2017-18_WEB-copy.pdf)

University of Virginia

Each school has their own policy

No appeal process

Will not accept transfer credit during suspension

<http://records.ureg.virginia.edu/content.php?catoid=43&navoid=2933>

University of Virginia at Wise

Suspended at 25 point grade deficit

Appeals submitted to the student's academic dean

<https://www.uvawise.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017-2018-College-Catalog.pdf>

Virginia Commonwealth University

Appeals submitted to the Academic Regulations Appeals Committee (Office of the Vice Provost)

<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/ugrad/continuance/>

Virginia Military Institute

Graduated GPA requirements

Appeals submitted to the Committee on Academic Appeals

<http://www.vmi.edu/media/content-assets/documents/academics/Academic-Regulations-Sep-2017.pdf>

Virginia State University

Modestly graduated GPA requirements

No appeal process

<http://www.vsu.edu/files/docs/academics/catalog/undergraduate-catalog-2016-2018.pdf>

Virginia Tech

Appeals submitted to the University Appeals Committee (Vice Provost for Academic Affairs office)

<http://www.undergradcatalog.registrar.vt.edu/1718/academic-policies.html>