

ACADEMIC FRESH START GPA AND ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS GPA POLICY
CAPP POLICY – Approved by CAPP on 9-12-07
Approved by Academic Affairs on 9-18-07
Approved by Faculty Senate on January 15, 2008
EFFECTIVE DATE: FALL 2008

Expanded Rationale Statements for Recommended Changes to Academic Fresh Start Policy
(now includes the additional Academic Forgiveness Policy)

1. Although the numbers are small, since the Academic Fresh Start policy was initiated it has helped students with retention and persistence to graduation. There have been 140 students granted this option between 1997 and 2006, and the vast majority of these students who have benefited from Academic Fresh Start have graduated.
2. The addition of the Academic Forgiveness policy will minimize academic penalties to students who are subject to extenuating circumstances beyond their control, which have caused drastic changes to their academic performance for one or two consecutive semesters.
3. The resulting action of the Academic Fresh Start and Academic Forgiveness policies does not change grades or the cumulative GPA. The effect of these policies is to provide a second GPA (Academic Fresh Start GPA or Academic Forgiveness GPA) that excludes the effect of a student's atypical performance caused by situations considered by these two policies. This second GPA is therefore a truer expression of a student's academic abilities and performance.
4. The Academic Fresh Start GPA and the Academic Forgiveness GPA would remove the undesirable stigma of a GPA below a student's abilities, and may allow under specified conditions the consideration of the student for university academic honors, scholarships, and professional programs. Some GPA requirements would not be affected, such as graduate school requirements and those leading to teacher licensure.
5. Having a written policy in place will create a consistent guideline to be used across colleges. Students and advisors will be aware that Academic Forgiveness is an option for students for whom extenuating circumstances caused drastic changes to their academic performance.
6. In order to be in line with the current Academic Dismissal Policy (12 hours with 2.2 semester GPA for immediate reinstatement), the proposed semester GPA required to apply for either of the Academic Fresh Start and Academic Forgiveness policies is a 2.2 (whereas the present Academic Fresh Start policy requires a 2.5 GPA).
7. A student may apply only once, and to only one or the other policy, and the process cannot be reversed.
8. The Academic Standards Committee of the college or its equivalent will still have the discretion to approve or not approve an application for Academic Fresh Start or Academic Forgiveness.

ACADEMIC FRESH START GPA POLICY and ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS GPA POLICY

The **Academic Fresh Start** and *Academic Forgiveness* Policies enable an undergraduate student to neutralize, in part, the grade impact of prior academic performance. **Academic Fresh Start** and *Academic Forgiveness* provide for the computation of an alternative GPA and for the use of that GPA in most academic situations. A student may apply only once, and to only one or the other, and the process cannot be reversed. A student may not apply for either policy until he or she has been reinstated into his or her college.

I. Conditions for a readmitted student to be eligible to apply for **Academic Fresh Start** are:

- A) The student was not enrolled in a K-State course for three (3) calendar years prior to readmission.
- B) After readmission, the student earned a K-State GPA of 2.2¹ or higher at the end of the academic session in which the twelfth credit was earned.
- C) Up to 60 consecutive hours² of course work and K-State GPA may be restricted from the regular GPA calculation. The beginning point for the **Academic Fresh Start** GPA shall be the first, second, third, fourth, or fifth³ academic semester of enrollment following the student's initial K-State date of entry. The choice of the starting point is designated by the student at the time of application for **Academic Fresh Start** and hours excluded from the calculation must be consecutive.

II. Conditions for a student to be eligible to apply for *Academic Forgiveness* are:

- A) The student experienced one or more extenuating circumstances which caused a drastic change to the student's academic performance in one or two semesters.
- B) After the session(s) affected by the extenuating circumstance, the student earned a K-State GPA of 2.2 or higher at the end of the academic session in which the twelfth credit was earned.
- C) Grades from up to two (2) consecutive semesters may be excluded from the regular cumulative GPA calculation.⁴
- D) The student's Academic Standards Committee of the college or its equivalent may request documentation confirming the extenuating circumstances with the application for *Academic Forgiveness*.

¹ Rationale: This is the GPA standard to which all students are held in the Academic Dismissal Policy.

² Rationale: This change will accommodate students who do not take traditional full-time semesters.

³ Rationale: This change will accommodate students who do not take traditional full-time semesters.

⁴ Rationale: It is assumed that the negative impact of the extenuating circumstance(s) will be diminished within two semesters.

III. The calculation and reporting of **Academic Fresh Start** or *Academic Forgiveness* GPA and their uses in academic evaluation are:

- A) **Academic Fresh Start** or *Academic Forgiveness* deletes nothing from the student's academic record. Grades earned before the **Academic Fresh Start** or *Academic Forgiveness* will remain on the transcript along with the cumulative GPA for all hours taken.
- B) The transcript will clearly indicate the starting point of the **Academic Fresh Start/Academic Forgiveness** as well as the **Academic Fresh Start/Academic Forgiveness** GPA.
- C) University-wide academic policies based on a cumulative GPA generally will use the **Academic Fresh Start** or *Academic Forgiveness* GPA. However, academic programs are not required to use **Academic Fresh Start** or *Academic Forgiveness* GPAs. Some programs, such as those in the graduate school or those leading to teacher licensure, may use all grades for the calculation of the GPA.
- D) In order for students in the **Academic Fresh Start** or *Academic Forgiveness* program to be eligible for university academic honors, they must complete a minimum of 60 hours in residence, with at least 50 hours in graded courses after the **Academic Fresh Start** or *Academic Forgiveness* begins. Other academic policies will not be affected.

IV. Procedures for applying for **Academic Fresh Start** or *Academic Forgiveness* are:

- A) A student applies for **Academic Fresh Start** GPA or *Academic Forgiveness* GPA through the Academic Standards Committee or its equivalent in the college in which the student is enrolled.
- B) A student must apply no later than the academic term prior to the one when the degree will be granted. (Students wishing to apply are encouraged to do so as soon as possible after qualifying).
- C) When applying, the student must indicate the point at which he or she wishes the **Academic Fresh Start** or *Academic Forgiveness* GPA to begin.
 - 1. For readmitted students applying for **Academic Fresh Start**, the choices are: the end of the first, second, third, fourth or fifth semester, following the student's initial K-State date of entry.
 - 2. For students who experienced extenuating circumstances and are applying for *Academic Forgiveness*, the semester(s) will be selected in consultation with the Academic Standards Committee of the college or its equivalent.