

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 5717S  
Date of Senate Approval 05/04/17

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 50:** **Increase the number of hours students may use to replace grades under the Repeat Course Policy**

**Effective Date: Fall 2017**

**1. Delete:** On page 46, the second paragraph under **Repeating Courses and Replacing Grades:**

Students have the option to replace the grades in courses for a maximum of 8 hours, and use the new grades in the calculation of the grade-point average. The grades for the initial attempts will remain on the student's permanent record and appear on the student's transcript, but will not calculate into the grade-point average. The credit hours from all attempts will count in the student's attempted hours.

**Add:** On page 46, in place of deleted entry:

Students have the option to replace the grades in courses for a maximum of 12 hours, and use the new grades in the calculation of the grade-point average. The grades for the initial attempts will remain on the student's permanent record and appear on the student's transcript, but will not calculate into the grade-point average. The credit hours from all attempts will count in the student's attempted hours.

**Impact:** Increasing the number of replacement hours for poor grades may help to remove an obstacle to completion for our students, and will bring our policies in line with those at most other UNC system schools. This change may reduce the number of students who are on Academic Warning for multiple semesters and/or who are moving into suspension because of gpa issues and/or poor course performance. Further, it will likely reduce the number of students who lose access to financial aid because their cumulative gpa drops/remains below a 2.0. No significant change to staffing or course enrollments is anticipated.

**Rationale:** In response to UNC General Administration's mandate *Fostering Undergraduate Student Success*, we made our repeat/replacement policy more restrictive, reducing the number of replacement hours from 15 to 8 in Fall 2014. As shown in Table 1, UNC Asheville's policy is currently one of the most rigorous among all schools in the UNC system.

The 2014 change was made in hopes that reducing the number of course replacement hours would encourage a higher number of students to persist in courses that were difficult for them; however, the policy is out of line with other system schools' repeat/replacement policies and may in fact be doing a disservice to our students as financial aid offices, prospective employers, and graduate schools consider students' gpas as part of decision-making processes.

By allowing students to replace the grades in up to 12 hours of coursework, this change could help reduce the number of students whose gpas might be irreparably damaged when they earn low course grades. This policy is expected to be particularly helpful to first-year students who have very poor grades in their first semester when they are transitioning from high school to college. See Table 2 for examples of how gpas would change for a select group of students if they could replace the grades in 12 hours instead of 8.

**Table 1: Repeat/Replace Hours at UNC System Schools**

<u>UNC School</u>	<u># of Hours that can be Repeated &amp; Replaced</u>
UNC Asheville	8 hours
Appalachian State Univ	4 courses
East Carolina Univ	4 times
Elizabeth City State Univ	15 hours
Fayetteville State Univ	16 hours
North Carolina A&T Univ	16 hours
North Carolina Central Univ	4 courses
North Carolina State Univ	2 courses
UNC Chapel Hill	Dean approval-both grades in GPA
UNC Charlotte	2 courses (max 8 hours)
UNC Greensboro	3 courses (300-level and below)
UNC Pembroke	Freshman 12 hours. Scale for transfer and readmits
UNC Wilmington	3 different courses
UNC School of the Arts	12 hours
Western Carolina Univ	16 hours
Winston Salem State Univ	4 courses or 16 hours

**Table 2: Example of Effect on Grade-Point-Averages if replacement hours are increased to 12**

<b>Student's Class Standing</b>	<b>3rd Course Repeated</b>	<b>Course Credit Hours</b>	<b>Grade Earned on First Attempt</b>	<b>Grade Earned on Repeat</b>	<b>GPA with 8 Hours of Exclusion</b>	<b>GPA with 12 Hours of Exclusion</b>
SO	MATH 191	4	F	D	1.97	2.24
SO	MAE 206	3	F	C-	2.36	2.48
SO	STAT 185	4	F	B	2.7	2.84
JR	HUM 324	4	F	A	2.9	3.11
JR	PHYS 221	4	D+	B	2.79	2.89
JR	ECE 200	4	C-	B+	2.7	2.74
JR	STAT 185	4	F	D	2.49	2.6
SR	MGMT 380	4	F	A	3.04	3.21
SR	BIOL 211	4	D	D	2.45	2.52
SR	ARTS 310	3	F	A	2.5	2.59
SR	BIOL 223	4	D	A-	2.5	2.56
SR	ARTS 310	3	F	A	2.85	2.92
SR	MUSC 232	3	F	B-	2.56	2.62
SR	ANTH 420	4	F	C-	2.2	2.27
SR	ECON 306	3	F	B	2.6	2.67
SR	ARTS 310	3	F	A	2.52	2.58
SR	MATH 191	4	F	B	3.14	3.25
SR	CHEM 231	3	F	B	2.71	2.77
SR	CHEM 436	3	F	D	2.33	2.38
PB	MAE 206	3	F	C+	2.97	3.02