FAQs on the change from Freshman Forgiveness to Grade Forgiveness

Q. Retroactive application of the Grade Forgiveness Rule (GFR): I took a course last fall, didn’t do so well, and repeated it more successfully in the spring. Can I use the spring grade to forgive the fall grade?

A. The Grade Forgiveness Rule cannot be applied retroactively when you have already repeated a course.

Q. Multiple repeats of a course-Scenario #1: I have taken a course, repeated it, and need to take it again. Can I use my third grade in the course to forgive one of the others?

A. Under the Grade Forgiveness Rule, your first repetition of a course can forgive the grade you earned the first time you took the course. No other combinations are permitted.

Q. Multiple repeats of a course-Scenario #2: I received credit by exam (with a mark of EM) for an AP exam I took in high school. Concerned about my preparation to advance to the next course, I took the course over when I came to the university and did not do so well. Can I now repeat the course under the Grade Forgiveness Rule?

A. You can repeat the course under the university’s general repeatability rule (in which both grades count and are, in effect, averaged into your GPA), but not under the Grade Forgiveness Rule, which is limited to the first time you repeat a course.

Q. Transition from the Freshman Forgiveness Rule (FFR) to GFR-Scenario #1: I have already repeated three courses under the Freshman Forgiveness Rule, but would still have had six credit hours of remaining eligibility under the old rule. Am I now limited to the three repeats I already finished?

A. Students will be limited to three repeats under the new rule. Those who have already repeated three courses under the Freshman Forgiveness Rule will normally have no eligibility to use the new rule, but during the transition, students who would have been eligible to repeat a fourth or fifth course under the old rule can do so for the remainder of the 2015-16 academic year.

Q. Transition from the FFR to GFR-Scenario #2: I used Freshman Forgiveness in repeating a course I initially failed during my first year. Can I use the new rule to repeat courses I failed during my second year?

A. A student who has repeated one course under the old rule remains eligible to repeat two courses under the new rule. A student who has repeated two courses under the old rule remains eligible to repeat one course under the new rule. Students who have
repeated three or more courses under the Freshman Forgiveness Rule, and would no longer have been eligible to repeat courses under the old rule, have exhausted their eligibility under the new rule. Students who have never used the Freshman Forgiveness Rule have full eligibility to repeat three courses under the Grade Forgiveness Rule.

Q. Receiving a lower grade when repeating: What if I decide to repeat a course under the rule and my grade in the repeated class is lower than my grade in the first class?

A. If you petition and are approved to repeat a course under the Grade Forgiveness Rule, the first grade will be dropped from the calculation of your GPA, and you will lose credit for the first course. If you repeat a D and fail the course the second time, the E will replace the D in your GPA, and you will come away with no credit in the course for which you had previously earned credit. This was also true under the old rule. It would be wise, therefore, in repeating a course, to assess your performance as accurately as possible and to decide whether or not you should drop it before the drop deadline for the semester or the session.

Q. Dropping the repeated course before completion: What happens if I petition to repeat a course using forgiveness and drop it midway through the semester?

A. You will receive a W on your transcript (as you would for any drop after the deadline for dropping without a W), but you will remain eligible to repeat the course under the provisions of the Grade Forgiveness Rule, should you decide (and petition) to do so in the future.

Q. Repeating even high grades: Were it not for the B I received in one course, I would have a perfect 4.0 GPA. Can I repeat that course, to try to regain a 4.0?

A. You could, but it’s not clear why you would, and there are good reasons we might advise you against it. A GPA, after all, is not the goal of an education, and not necessarily a gauge of your ability. Repeating a course in which you performed so well the first time does not seem a good use of your time or money, and repeating courses is one main cause of extended time and cost in completing a degree. Even if you do have time to take the course over, wouldn’t it be better (and look better on your transcript) to extend and challenge yourself, by taking some other course? Remember, the B you received the first time, though disconnected from your GPA, will remain on your transcript. Finally, repeating a course under the provisions of this rule is not without risk: you could do worse the second time.

Q. When does the change happen to my record? My petition to repeat a course using the Grade Forgiveness Rule was approved, and I am now taking the course a second time, but the first grade is still on my record. Why?

A. Approved petitions will not be processed until after the tenth Friday of the semester—after the deadline for dropping a course has passed.

8/19/2015
Q. Impact on academic probation: The course I failed pulled my cumulative GPA below a 2.0, and I was placed on academic probation. Once that failing grade is removed from my record, my cumulative GPA for that term will be better than 2.0. Will the notation that I was on probation for that term be removed from my record?

A. You were placed on probation for your grades at that time. The notation was not made in error, and it will remain on your record.

Q. Course substitutions: The course I would like to repeat is no longer being offered. Am I just out of luck?

A. When appropriate, a student can “repeat” a substitute “equivalent” course for forgiveness. Discuss your situation with your academic advisor.

Other questions? Discuss your situation with your academic advisor.