

# Academic Renewal Policy

## Academic Renewal

A provision which allows Undergraduate USG degree-seeking students who earlier experienced academic difficulty to make a fresh start and have one final opportunity to earn an associate or bachelor's degree. Undergraduate students receiving academic renewal receive a new grade point average to be used for determining academic standing.

## Requirements for Eligibility

- Current or former students must apply for Academic Renewal by contacting the Office of the Registrar. New students must contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The granting of Academic Renewal is not automatic.
- Only undergraduate degree-seeking students may be eligible for Academic Renewal.
- Students must apply for Academic Renewal, if they choose this option, by the end of their third semester of enrollment or by the end of one calendar year, whichever comes first.
- Academic Renewal may be granted only once by a USG college or university.
- Students must have experienced their academic difficulties at Georgia Southern or be a transfer student from a regionally accredited institution of higher education to be eligible for Academic Renewal.

## Readmitted students

- Undergraduate students who return to a previously attended USG institution may be eligible for Academic Renewal.
- Readmitted students must be absent from Georgia Southern for three (3) years, the required period of absence.
- The period of absence is calculated based on the period of time between the date of last enrollment at Georgia Southern and the date of return to Georgia Southern.
- Only coursework completed prior to the period of absence may be considered for Academic Renewal. If Academic Renewal is granted, all coursework completed prior to the period of absence will be renewed.
- Students may attend other institutions during the period of absence; however, that coursework will not be eligible for Academic Renewal. Transfer credit for any coursework taken during the period of absence shall be granted in accordance with the prevailing USG and Georgia Southern policies and procedures regarding the awarding of transfer credit.

## Transfer students

- Students who previously attended a USG institution or any regionally-accredited institution of higher education and transfer to Georgia Southern may be eligible for Academic Renewal for coursework taken three (3) or more years prior to the term of enrollment at Georgia Southern.
- If Academic Renewal is granted, all coursework completed three (3) years prior to the term of enrollment at Georgia Southern will be renewed.
- Courses taken less than three (3) years prior to the term of enrollment at Georgia Southern are ineligible for consideration for Academic Renewal. Transfer credit for any coursework taken three (3) or more years prior to the first term of enrollment at Georgia Southern shall be granted in accordance with the prevailing USG and Georgia Southern policies and procedures regarding the awarding of transfer

credit. Retained grades are not calculated in a renewal GPA. Such credit is considered in the same context as transfer credit, credit by examination, and courses with grades of "S".

## Academic Renewal and Admissions

- At their discretion, institutions may elect to allow applicants to apply for Academic Renewal at the time of admissions or readmissions. Those institutions electing to grant academic renewal during the admission process should omit the renewed coursework from consideration when evaluating an applicant's eligibility for admission to the institution.
- Receiving Academic Renewal does not guarantee admission or readmission to an institution. All students, including those granted Academic Renewal, must meet BOR and institution admission requirements.

## Impact of Academic Renewal on GPA, Academic Credit Earned, Financial Aid Eligibility

- If a student with Academic Renewal is admitted or readmitted to a USG institution, the institution shall honor the Academic Renewal granted at another USG institution such that the coursework for which Academic Renewal has been granted at one institution shall also be granted Academic Renewal at any other USG institution subsequently attended.
- All previously attempted courses, including those for which Academic Renewal has been granted, shall be recorded on the student's official transcript.
- An Academic Renewal GPA is calculated when the student resumes taking coursework following approval for Academic Renewal.
- Coursework taken within the Period of Absence is not eligible for renewal but transfer credit for any coursework taken during that period of time shall be granted in accordance with the prevailing USG and institutional policies and procedures regarding the awarding of transfer credit.
- The Academic Renewal GPA will be used for determining academic standing and eligibility for graduation.
  - Students are still expected to meet residency requirements (the number of credit hours that must be earned at the degree awarding institution) after acquiring Academic Renewal status. Renewed courses do not count towards the institutional residency requirement.
  - Institutions will determine the eligibility for honors at graduation for those students granted Academic Renewal status based on their institution policies regarding honors graduation.
- Academic credit for previously completed coursework will be retained only for courses in which a grade of "A", "B" or "C" has been earned.
  - Retained grades are not calculated in an Academic Renewal GPA. Such credit is considered in the same context as transfer credit, credit by examination, and courses with grades of "S".
  - Courses with grades of "D" or "F" must be repeated if they are required in the student's degree program.
  - Institutions shall accept transient credits of students with Academic Renewal status per their policies regarding the acceptance of such credit.
- Applicability of retained credit to degree requirements will be determined by the degree requirements in effect at the time Academic Renewal status is conferred on the student. Specific institutional program regulations must also be met.
- Scholastic suspensions that occurred in the past shall remain recorded on the student's permanent record. If a suspension (either first or second) is on the record and the student encounters subsequent academic difficulty after having been granted Academic Renewal, the

student may be subject to suspension or dismissal per the institution's academic standing policy.

- The granting of Academic Renewal does not supersede financial aid policies regarding Satisfactory Academic Progress.

## **Documenting Academic Renewal in Student Records**

- Institutions that grant Academic Renewal must document the renewal on student records as described in the associated business practice.
- All courses approved for Academic Renewal are notated with a # sign.
- The date that the Academic Renewal was completed will be documented on the student's transcripts.

## **About the Policy**

- A student's total institutional Grade Point Average (GPA) upon Academic Renewal will begin at his/her first semester of enrollment/re-enrollment at Georgia Southern.
- All Georgia History, Constitution, Required High School Curriculum (RHSC), and other Board of Regents Policy requirements met prior to Academic Renewal will remain on the student's permanent record and will count in regard to those policies.
- Graduation with honors will be based on the cumulative (overall) GPA as defined in the policies for determining graduation with honors. All previous grades will be used in determining honors.
- Reentry into a student's previous major program is not automatic.
- Academic Renewal will not supersede admissions requirements for certain programs which require a specific minimum GPA based upon all course work.

## **Total Institutional GPA**

- All past grades of D and F will be forgiven in the readmitted student's total institutional GPA upon Academic Renewal, but will remain in the student's official cumulative Georgia Southern GPA. The student will lose credit for courses in which he/she earned D grades.
- All past grades of A, B, C, and S will remain in the student's hours earned toward graduation, but they will not be included in the readmitted student's total institutional GPA upon Academic Renewal. They will, however, be included in the student's official cumulative Georgia Southern GPA.

## **Total Transfer GPA**

- All past grades of D and F will be forgiven in the student's total transfer GPA upon Academic Renewal. The student will lose credit for courses in which he/she earned D grades.
- All past grades of A, B, C, and S will remain in the student's hours earned toward graduation, but they will not be included in the student's total transfer GPA upon Academic Renewal.