

SUBJECT: Student Affairs
Policy 311.1 Academic Forgiveness/Fresh Start GPA Policy
Effective: February 2012 Revised:

The Academic Forgiveness/Fresh Start option is available to degree-seeking students re-entering Great Falls College Montana State University (GFC MSU). This policy offers currently enrolled students a one-time, one-year window of opportunity to petition for Academic Forgiveness, allowing students who earlier had experienced academic difficulty to improve their academic standing and GPA.

To be eligible for Academic Forgiveness/Fresh Start GPA students must:

1. Be a former GFC MSU student;
2. Return to the College after a minimum absence of five years;
3. Be currently enrolled at GFC MSU;
4. Have not been previously awarded Academic Forgiveness at GFC MSU; and
5. Submit their request for Academic Forgiveness within one year of re-admittance and after showing a term GPA of at least 2.0 GPA in at least 6 credits.

A student who is eligible for a Fresh Start GPA may petition only once. These petitions are considered on a case-by-case basis by the Scholastic Appeal Board. The decisions of the Board will be the final decision of the College.

When the Fresh Start GPA is started, **ALL** previous grades and credits from a particular past semester or semesters earned at GFC MSU will be excluded; a student may not select particular grades and credits within a semester to exclude while retaining others. Only GFC MSU grades and credits will be excluded.

The Fresh Start GPA begins with the student's first semester of re-enrollment. The student's transcript will indicate where Fresh Start begins. The old grades will remain on the transcript; however, they may not be used to fulfill any graduation requirements.

The granting of Academic Forgiveness does not replace institutional financial aid policies governing Satisfactory Academic Progress or remove any financial aid obligation incurred for excluded coursework.

If a student has tuition/fees owed to the College, the granting of Academic Forgiveness does not remove that financial obligation.

The Academic Forgiveness/Fresh Start GPA Policy at GFC MSU may transfer to other institutions. Students should check with the transfer institution regarding transferability.

Students wishing to petition for a Fresh Start GPA should contact Student Central or the Advising and Career Center to initiate the process.