

DSCC Policy – Academic Fresh Start

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the requirements of the Academic Fresh Start and the process students must follow to request an Academic Fresh Start.

II. Scope

This policy applies to readmitting and transfer students who have experienced academic difficulty and who wish to attend Dyersburg State Community College after an absence from any institution of higher education of at least four years.

III. Policy

A student who has not attended a collegiate institution for at least four (4) years, has gained maturity through extended experience outside a higher education setting and has demonstrated better than average academic performance upon his/her return to college may seek special permission for an Academic Fresh Start. The grade-point average of a student requesting an Academic Fresh Start is calculated only on work completed at DSCC. Requirements for Academic Fresh Start are as follows:

1. Separation from all institutions of higher learning for at least four years prior to enrolling at DSCC. *With recognition of the unique challenges of COVID-19, a student who was enrolled in one of the following semesters, Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, or Summer 2021, and were not successful, resulting in a missed semester, may request an exception to the length of separation. All other criteria for Academic Fresh Start must be met.*
2. Meet the criteria for admission/readmission according to TBR policy.
3. File a formal application to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success, requesting the Academic Fresh Start and describing an academic plan at any time after the readmission or admission as a degree-seeking student.

Terms of the Academic Fresh Start

1. Once the student has satisfied the above requirements, DSCC may grant the Academic Fresh Start. The student may be granted a Fresh Start only once.
2. The student's permanent record will remain a record of all work; however, courses taken and previously failed will be excluded from the calculation of the Quality Point Average (QPA) or GPA. Courses with a "D" grade will also be excluded from the calculation when a grade of "C" or better is required in the student's current major. QPA, GPA and credit hours will reflect courses for which passing grades were earned and retained.

- a. Retained grades will be calculated in the Fresh Start QPA/GPA.
 - b. Courses with “D” or “F” grades must be repeated at DSCC when they are required in the student’s current major. All remaining courses for the current degree objectives must be completed at DSCC. No transient credit will be accepted after invoking Academic Fresh Start.
 - c. The application of retained credit toward degree requirements will be determined by the requirements currently in effect at the time the academic renewal status is conferred on the student. Specific program regulations must also be met.
 - d. Previously satisfied Assessment and Placement Program (COMPASS) requirements will not be forfeited.
3. Upon degree admission, Fresh Start applicants who did not satisfy COMPASS requirements at the time of their previous enrollment and whose academic plan includes completion of a college-level English or mathematics course must meet current Academic Assessment and Placement Program (COMPASS) requirements regarding enrollment in college English and mathematics courses.
 4. The student’s transcript will note that the Fresh Start was made and the date of the Fresh Start.
 5. The student will apply for the Fresh Start with the understanding that all TBR institutions will honor a Fresh Start provision granted at another TBR institution. Non-TBR institutions may not accept the QPC/GPA as it is calculated with the Fresh Start.
 6. This policy is independent of financial aid regulations. Financial aid requirements at the time of application will apply, so a Fresh Start applicant should check with his/her financial counselor for guidance.
 7. Academic Fresh Start will not be applied to a student’s transcript until after the census date of the semester in which the student enrolls.
 8. **Academic Fresh Start will be granted only once; Academic Fresh Start cannot be reversed.**

IV. Compliance

All DSCC faculty, staff, and students must adhere to this policy.

V. Definitions

Academic Fresh Start: A plan of academic forgiveness which allows DSCC students who have experienced academic difficulty to make a clean start upon returning to the College after an absence of at least four years.

VI. Revision History

Policy written July 2014; approved Administrative Council July 22, 2014.

Policy changes approved by Administrative Council on April 25, 2024. Policy reviewed and approved by Administrative Council November 21, 2024.