



Policy AC008: Fresh Start

Recommended for Approval by:

A blue ink signature of Dr. Scott E. Miller.

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Approved by:

A blue ink signature of Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson.

Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, President,
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Effective Date: 07/01/2022

A. Intent

To define the conditions under which a student may be reinstated to Pennsylvania Western University with some previous grades removed from the GPA calculation.

B. Definition(s)

Not Applicable.

C. Policy

The Fresh Start program allows a student with a previous poor academic record to readmit to PennWest, minimizing the negative impact of previous poor grades on their academic record. Through Fresh Start, any grades of D+ and below earned prior to readmission will be removed from grade point average (GPA) calculations and will not count as credits earned toward graduation. These grades will remain on the transcript with a note and repeat code. All credits from course grades C- and above earned prior to readmission will count as credits earned toward graduation, but will not count in GPA calculations.

Students readmitting to the university under this option should consult with the Financial Aid office regarding any implications for aid qualifications.

The student may only use the Fresh Start option one time during their PennWest career.

The following conditions apply:

- The student must have a *minimum* absence of two (2) consecutive years from PennWest university. This consecutive absence will also apply to attendance at California, Clarion, and Edinboro Universities.

- At the time of request for readmission to the university, the student must be a *first-time, baccalaureate-seeking, undergraduate* student. Fresh Start does not apply to students seeking a second baccalaureate degree.
- The student must have a cumulative grade point average of less than 2.00 at the time of the request for readmission.
- The student requesting a Fresh Start must successfully complete at least 12 credits upon readmission and earn a minimum term GPA of 2.00 for the first semester of readmission. If attending part-time, the student must complete 15 credits and achieve a minimum 2.00 GPA from those credits. If the student fails to meet this condition, the Fresh Start option will not apply, and all previously earned grades will apply to their academic record.

D. Procedure(s)

1. The student will apply for readmission to PennWest. If the student is aware of the Fresh Start option, they may indicate interest to the Admissions Counselor. Otherwise, the Admissions Office will notify all students meeting the conditions for Fresh Start, as specified in this policy, of this option once the readmission application has been received.
2. The student will notify the Admissions Office if they wish to participate in the Fresh Start program.
3. If participating, the student will be counseled by a Success Coach in the Center for Student Outreach and Success regarding the implications and requirements of the Fresh Start program.
4. The Success Coach will inform the Office of the Registrar of the student's participation in Fresh Start, and the Registrar will code all course credits and grades earned prior to readmission per this policy on the student's record.

E. Related policies

Academic Standing – Undergraduate Students Policy (AC006)

Graduation Requirements Policy (AC028)

Readmission Policy (AC049)

F. Contact Information

For additional information, please contact the Center of Student Outreach and Success.

G. Policy Review Schedule

All policies will be reviewed every two years or on an as needed basis if a change in BOG, PASSHE or Pennsylvania law would create the need for an immediate change.