



Campus Administrative Policy

Policy Title: **Fresh Start**

Policy Number: 7040 Functional Area: Student Affairs

Effective: July 1, 2021 (beginning with Fall 2021 readmits)
Date Last Amended/Reviewed: March 17, 2020
Date Scheduled for Review: July 1, 2027
Supersedes: N/A—New Policy

Approved by: Michelle Marks
Chancellor, University of Colorado Denver

Prepared by: Fresh Start Working Group

Reviewing Office: Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic
and Student Affairs

Responsible Officer: Interim Vice Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for
Student Success

Applies to: CU Denver Campus

A. **INTRODUCTION**

This policy establishes a “Fresh Start” program (the “Program”) at the University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) that allows undergraduate students who left CU Denver with a cumulative transcript G.P.A. of below 2.0 the opportunity to return for a second chance with a recalculated G.P.A. Only credits for courses with grades of C- or higher will continue to count towards major or minor requirements, but the grade points will not be included in the recalculated transcript GPA. Certain departments may have higher grade requirements for their specific programs. Core requirements, excluding Intellectual Competencies, will count towards graduation requirements if completed with a passing grade, but the grade points will not be included in the recalculated cumulative transcript GPA. This policy does not apply to graduate students.

The Program’s goal is to give undergraduate students who started at CU Denver a second chance to succeed at CU Denver. The broad aims of implementing this policy at CU Denver are to enhance equity, increase student retention, and advance student success.

This policy is the result of a collaborative effort between multiple offices at CU Denver that constituted the “Fresh Start Working Group.” This policy is supported by research on similar programs at CU Denver peer institutions, including Cleveland State U, UMass Amherst, UMass Lowell, U Memphis, UNC Greensboro, U New Orleans, Northern Arizona U, Wichita State U, and Colorado State U, which this committee visited and consulted with in shaping CU Denver’s Fresh Start program.

B. POLICY STATEMENT

1. This policy provides the requirements for how students who were previously enrolled at CU Denver but left prior to graduation with a cumulative G.P.A. below 2.0 can reapply to CU Denver after at least one calendar year absence (three semesters, including summer term) and be re-admitted with an academic “fresh start” as described below in section C.
2. This policy applies only to undergraduate, degree-seeking students pursuing their first undergraduate degree who were:
 - a) previously enrolled at CU Denver and left for at least one calendar year (three semesters),
 - b) at the time of departure, were in good standing in terms of academic honesty and/or student conduct matters;
 - c) left CU Denver with a cumulative transcript GPA below 2.0, and
 - d) are seeking re-enrollment.

Students who have graduated are not eligible for the Fresh Start program.

3. Fresh Start and Campus Policy 7037, *Grade Forgiveness*: Students who meet the criteria noted above in paragraph B.2 and who, during their first enrollment period, had certain course grades replaced under campus policy 7037 are still eligible to apply for the Fresh Start program, under this policy. However, students who meet the criteria above and are re-enrolled under this Fresh Start policy are no longer eligible to replace grades through campus policy 7037.

C. STIPULATIONS

The following stipulations apply to all individuals who desire to pursue re-admittance under this policy:

1. The Program only applies to courses taken at CU Denver.
2. The Program only applies to students who have left CU Denver for at least one calendar year (three semesters, including summer term) and possessed a CU Denver cumulative transcript G.P.A. of below 2.0 at the time of last enrollment.
3. Only credits for courses with grades of C- or higher will continue to count towards major or minor requirements, but the grade points will not be included in the recalculated transcript GPA. Certain departments may have higher grade requirements for their specific programs. Core requirements, excluding Intellectual Competencies, will count towards graduation requirements if completed with a

passing grade, but the grade points will not be included in the recalculated cumulative transcript GPA.

4. Course credit granted under item C.3 above will apply to all types of courses, including those taken pass/fail. Furthermore, there is no limit on the number of credits that would be allowed to count under this policy. Students' prior courses and grades will remain on the transcript, but the grade points will not be included in the recalculated cumulative transcript G.P.A.
5. A student can only be re-admitted to CU Denver under this policy once.
6. Students re-enrolled under this policy will be eligible for all awards and honors, whether at the program, school/college, or university level.
7. Students are still responsible for all normal tuition and fees for both the original courses and the new courses taken as part of a Fresh Start.

D. STIPULATION NOTES

1. If a student was dismissed due to academic dishonesty or student conduct, they are not eligible for re-enrollment under this policy.
2. A grade below C- received and reported as a result of academic dishonesty is not eligible to be removed from calculation of the G.P.A.
3. Students are responsible for understanding the implications of this policy for their financial aid and/or scholarships. (See Appendix A)

E. PETITION PROCESS

The Office of the Admissions will provide a petition form for students to exercise this policy until an automated process is developed. The petition must be completed by the student and received by Admissions in accordance with Admissions published deadlines.

Students who utilize this policy and whose petition is accepted will have an indicator associated with their student records so that advising units can access a report that allows them to identify Fresh Start students each term and proactively reach out to them.

F. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

After five years, the CU Denver Fresh Start Working Group will review the data available from the implementation of this policy to evaluate how well it is achieving its desired effects of enhancing equity, increasing student retention, and advancing student success.

The following data, at a minimum, should be collected on all students who utilize this policy during the initial five-year period.

1. Completion rates—look for any increases or decreases.
2. Cumulative G.P.A.s.
3. Total number of credit hours each student has at graduation.
4. Majors selected upon re-enrollment and upon graduation.
5. Number of students utilizing this policy.

6. Credits generated after Fresh Start.
7. Comparison to students who re-enrolled without the Fresh Start policy.

Notes

1. Dates of official enactment and amendments:
March 17, 2020: Adopted by the Chancellor
Fresh Start Working Group: Jeff Franklin (Undergraduate Experience, Sarah Fields (CLAS Associate Dean), Nimol Hen (Advising), Carrie John (Registrar), Catherine Wilson (Undergraduate Admissions), Allison Diekhoff (Associate Registrar), Justin Jaramillo, Jennifer Helgeson (Financial Aid), David Tracer (Associate Dean CLAS), Mark Heredia (Provost Office).
2. History:
March 17, 2020: This policy allows undergraduate students who left CU Denver with a cumulative transcript G.P.A. of below 2.0 the opportunity to return for a second chance with a recalculated G.P.A. and maintaining some credits.
3. Initial Policy Effective Date: TBD
4. Cross References/Appendix:
 - [Campus Administrative Policy 7037, Grade Forgiveness](#)
 - [FSA Handbook, Volume 1, Chapter 1, May 2018](#)
 - [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\) for Financial Aid Recipients, CU Denver Financial Aid Policy, Financial Aid & Scholarships Office, March 27, 2018](#)
 - [APS 1025, Uniform Grading Policy](#)

APPENDIX A: CONSIDERATIONS

The following factors are important for students to consider before they decide to pursue re-enrollment under this policy.

1. **Course Credits.** Repeating a course does not allow a student to count both attempts towards graduation credit. The Registrar's degree audit procedure ensures a specific course's credit can only be counted once towards graduation.
2. **Graduate or Professional School Applications.** Any student who applies for a Fresh Start is advised/warned that graduate and professional schools and CU System campuses not participating in Fresh Start might re-calculate the student's G.P.A using the previously earned (poor) grades. CU Denver has no control over how other institutions or departments calculate the G.P.A. for application purposes.
3. **Financial Aid and Scholarship Implications.** There are several aspects of this policy that relate to financial aid and scholarship funds that a student may receive. For more detail, students are encouraged to seek advice from the Office of [Financial Aid and Scholarships](#) before applying for a Fresh Start. In addition, the following should be noted:
 - Federal regulation allows students to receive Title IV financial aid to retake a passed course one time only.
 - If a student does retake a passed course, both grades will be included in the cumulative G.P.A. used for financial aid eligibility purposes. Students must know that there will be at least two separate G.P.A.s that concern them—one for financial aid, and one for their transcript. In most cases, the transcript G.P.A. will be higher than the financial aid G.P.A. If the financial aid G.P.A. is less than 2.0, the student will be in jeopardy of no longer qualifying for financial aid. This could happen even if the transcript G.P.A. is greater than 2.0.
 - Undergraduates must complete their program within 150% of the published length of their degree program (as measured in credit hours). For financial aid purposes, repeated credits *are* included in this maximum timeframe calculation. Consequently, students re-enrolled in Fresh Start will be increasing the likelihood that they exceed this maximum timeframe and thus should exercise this policy judiciously.
 - Students with scholarships should, in conjunction with help from the Financial Aid and Scholarship office, ensure the stipulations of their scholarship funds will allow them to use their scholarship funds in case of re-enrollment under Fresh Start.