

**GPSC 5295 05S****Proposed Policy Change: Last Day to Drop without a Grade**

Our current policy allows students to drop a course without a grade until four weeks after first class day in the fall or spring semester, three weeks after the first class day of a summer session II or III, and two weeks after the first class day of a summer session I or IV. This policy allows our students to drop courses after a substantial amount of time has passed without suffering academically, since the hours they drop do not count toward the semester or cumulative GPA.

In recent years, there have been legislative restrictions that involve the official reporting date (ORD), which is generally the twelfth class day in the fall and spring and the fourth class day in the summer. In fall and spring, the last day to drop without a grade occurs about two weeks after ORD. In Summer I and IV the last day to drop without a grade is generally just over a week after ORD; in Summer II and III, just over two weeks.

Courses dropped during that time period (between ORD and the last day to drop without a grade) do not count against a student academically; they do count against a student financially in several ways, some obvious and some obscure.

1. Students pay tuition and fees for the course without making any progress toward a degree. If they take the course again, they will have to pay tuition and fees again, possibly at a higher rate.
2. The dropped course counts toward the number of hours attempted for purposes of the undergraduate tuition rebate. [*Ceteris paribus*, students who obtain a degree after attempting no more than three hours in excess of the minimum required for the degree are entitled to a \$1000 tuition rebate. "Attempt" means to be enrolled in a course after ORD.]
3. The course counts toward the undergraduate cap. [*Ceteris paribus*, students may attempt no more than 45 hours in excess of the minimum hours required for the degree they are seeking at in-state tuition rates; after they exceed the cap they must pay out of state tuition.]
4. The course counts toward the three-peat rule. [*Ceteris paribus*, students may take the same course twice at in-state tuition rates; thereafter they must pay out of state tuition for that course.]

With the increases in tuition, these legislative changes taken together mean substantial financial penalties for students. I propose that the Last Day to Drop without a Grade be changed to ORD, the twelfth class day in the spring and fall semesters, the fourth class day in summer sessions, effective Fall 2005.

Changing the last day to drop without a grade to ORD (twelfth and fourth class day) would make the potential academic and financial penalties congruent, and they would reinforce each other, drawing students' attention to the increased penalties that result from dropping courses.