

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 31, 2012

TO: Undergraduate Committee

FROM: Office of Admissions (Djuana Young), Registrar's Office (Debbie Henry), Academic Program Management (Heidi Kennedy)

SUBJECT: Proposal for amendment of undergraduate Academic Fresh Start policy, Undergraduate Catalog effective Fall 2012-Summer 2013

APPROVED JUN 06 2012

RECEIVED MAY 31 2012

Effective fall 2012, the Office of Admissions, the Registrar's Office and the Office of Academic Program Management request that the policy for Academic Fresh Start as posted in the Undergraduate Catalog be amended to be made current.

The current policy requires an additional application and the Office of Admissions is requesting to fold this program into the current ApplyTexas application system currently in use. Additionally, the Office of Admissions feels it is necessary to further explain the audience and purpose of this program.

With the recently enacted readmission process for former students (to include students seeking readmission from academic suspension), Academic Fresh Start has been identified as a program that needed further clarification so that our admission process was streamlined for all stakeholders (students, academic advisors, admissions staff, college academic affairs officers, and institutional research).

The original UH policy, commonly referred to as "UH Fresh Start," offered former and current students the option for a fresh start for academic purposes, allowing removal from consideration for academic purposes coursework 10 or more years older. "These purposes include but are not limited to determining their classification, academic standing, course prerequisites, degree requirements, grade point average, eligibility for graduation, and eligibility for honors. Students who elect this option cannot use any of the course work that has been removed from consideration for any academic purpose." (Undergraduate Catalog, 2001- 2008)

In 2009, the Academic Fresh Start policy changed to reflect revisions in State and university admissions policies and procedures. At present the posted policy still contains language referencing current students. Procedurally currently enrolled students are permitted to seek a "fresh start" with Dean's approval, and final approval through APM. Approved requests allow coursework 10 or more years older to be removed from consideration for academic purposes. In discussions with the Academic Coordinators Team (ACT), we sought to align the UH policy with the state provisions for Academic Fresh Start.

The proposed policy amendment provides the Academic Fresh Start option to new and former students (which includes students seeking readmission from suspension) and eliminates the mention or option for currently enrolled students as they are already admitted. There was not support for reinstating the original language from the UH Fresh Start policy for current students. However, the Cullen College of Engineering expressed the desire to continue to allow current students the option of a fresh start, that is to say they wish to retain the option to permit any student, current students included, to request that coursework 10 or more years older be removed from consideration for academic purposes, one time only.

Proposed amended Academic Fresh Start policy follows.

PROPOSED POLICY REVISION (rev: May 2012):

## Academic Fresh Start

Undergraduate students applying for admission to the University of Houston may elect to have all academic coursework completed at any institution of higher education 10 or more years prior to the starting date of the semester in which the applicant seeks to enroll at the University of Houston ignored for admission purposes. Once admitted under academic fresh start the student may not receive any course credit for courses undertaken 10 or more years prior to enrollment. Once ignored this coursework cannot be used to satisfy prerequisite or degree requirements at the University of Houston. The Academic Fresh Start program is open to transfer students and former students who are readmitted. Students seeking postbaccalaureate admissions are not eligible for Academic Fresh Start.

Courses that are removed from consideration under provisions of the Academic Fresh Start Program will not be removed from the student's academic record, but the student's UH transcript shall be annotated to identify the courses that have been removed from consideration.

For former students, academic standing resulting from coursework within 10 years of enrollment will be considered in determining future academic standing (academic notice, probation or suspension). Any academic probations and suspensions that resulted from course work removed from consideration under this program will not be counted in any future determination as to whether the student is placed on academic notice, academic probation, or academic suspension.

There may be implications for financial aid and veterans benefits for students enrolled under Academic Fresh Start. Students should contact these offices for more information.

Students admitted or readmitted under Academic Fresh Start may elect to use the provisions of this program only once at the University of Houston and only at the point of admission or readmission to the University of Houston.