

FAQs for Students

Academic Clemency Policy

Academic Clemency grants students who have been separated from the University of Maryland for five or more years the opportunity to have up to 16 attempted credits with grades of D+, D, D-, and F removed from the calculation of their cumulative grade point average:

<http://president.umd.edu/administration/policies/section-iii-academic-affairs/iii-130a>

Eligibility for Academic Clemency

What are the requirements for Academic Clemency eligibility?

- Were an undergraduate degree seeking student immediately prior to separation from the University.
- Were separated from the University for at least five calendar years.
- Have grades of D+, D, D-, and F.
- Have reenrolled at the University in pursuit of initial baccalaureate degree.
- Must satisfactorily complete the first semester of reenrollment, meaning enrollment was not withdrawn or canceled.

When is a student eligible for Academic Clemency?

Undergraduate students who have reenrolled after at least five years of separation from the University are eligible for Academic Clemency. Students must have been in degree-seeking status, and be returning in pursuit of their initial baccalaureate degree to qualify for Academic Clemency.

How are the five years for Academic Clemency eligibility counted?

Five years begins on the last day of the last attended semester. Please see chart: [Academic Clemency Eligibility Dates](#)

What courses are eligible for Academic Clemency?

Academic Clemency may be used for up to 16 attempted credits of D+, D, D-, and F grades from courses previously completed at the University. The grades from these courses will be removed from the calculation of the student's cumulative grade point average (GPA).

Are all previously completed courses eligible for Academic Clemency?

Students may use Academic Clemency for eligible courses if they were in degree seeking status immediately prior to their separation from the University. Courses taken in non-degree seeking programs (e.g. Young Scholars, Dual Enrollment, Maryland Transfer Advantage Program, Science in the Evening) are also eligible for Academic Clemency if the student completed at least one semester in degree seeking status immediately prior to their separation from the University. However, students who were in non-degree seeking programs immediately prior to their separation from the University are not eligible for Academic Clemency.

If I was in the Freshman Connection Program in my only semester at University of Maryland, am I eligible for Academic Clemency?

Yes. The University considers students participating in Freshmen Connection as being in degree seeking status.

Are courses taken at the University the summer prior to the start of my freshman year eligible for Academic Clemency?

Yes. Students who were in degree seeking status immediately prior to their separation from the University may use Academic Clemency for courses taken at the University the summer prior to the start of their freshman year.

I took courses at the University of Maryland as a non-degree seeking student (e.g. Young Scholars, Dual Enrollment, Maryland Transfer Advantage Program, Science in the Evening), then left the University for at least five years. Am I eligible for Academic Clemency?

No. Students who were in non-degree seeking programs immediately prior to their separation from the University are not eligible for Academic Clemency.

How do I receive Academic Clemency?

How do I request Academic Clemency?

To request Academic Clemency, you will need to meet with your college academic advisor.

Do I need an exception to policy for Academic Clemency?

No. You do not need an exception to policy for Academic Clemency. However, you must meet with an advisor to request Academic Clemency.

What courses are eligible for Academic Clemency?

Academic Clemency may be used for up to 16 attempted credits of D+, D, D-, and F grades from courses previously completed at the University. The grades from these courses will be removed from the calculation of your cumulative grade point average (GPA).

Does Academic Clemency change the number of repeat credits allowable by the University?

No. Academic Clemency does not change the number of repeat credits a student is allowed to have. All repeated courses (and course attempts) are included in repeat credit totals.

May I use transfer credits toward Academic Clemency?

No. Academic Clemency may only be used for courses taken at the University of Maryland.

When will Academic Clemency appear on my transcript and be reflected in my cumulative GPA?

The Academic Clemency notation will appear on your transcript at the completion of the first fall, or spring, semester following your reenrollment to the University. The GPA adjustment occurs when final grades for the semester are calculated.

How will Academic Clemency appear on my transcript?

Each course for which Academic Clemency was granted will appear on your transcript under the semester of your reenrollment to the University, with an Academic Clemency notation. Please be aware, however, that all previous courses and grades will remain on your transcript--see [sample student record](#) for an example.

How do I decide which 16 credits I should use for Academic Clemency?

You will determine which credits to use for Academic Clemency in your academic advising session. Your academic advisor can assist you in selecting the courses for Academic Clemency that will make the most sense in your degree program.

If I do poorly in my first semester of reenrollment, what happens to the decisions made with my advisor concerning my Academic Clemency?

Whether or not you do well in your first semester of reenrollment, your Academic Clemency will be recorded and calculated after completing the semester. This means that your previous cumulative GPA (adjusted with Academic Clemency) and your first semester grades will be calculated together upon completing your first semester of reenrollment.

What is the deadline for requesting Academic Clemency?

Academic Clemency should be requested in consultation with your academic advisor as soon as possible upon reenrollment to the University, and the completed form should be submitted to the Office of the Registrar by the last day of classes of your first semester of reenrollment.

What if I decide to use different courses for Academic Clemency after it has been processed?

Students may not change courses once Academic Clemency has been processed by the Office of the Registrar.

Am I able to receive Academic Clemency more than one time?

No. Academic Clemency is granted one time only, and must be processed during the first semester that you reenroll at the University in pursuit of your initial baccalaureate degree.

What are some considerations I should take into account concerning Academic Clemency?

- You can eliminate up to 16 credits of D+, D, D-, and F grades from your cumulative GPA calculation.
- You will lose the earned credits for courses for which you have been granted Academic Clemency (i.e. the courses with D+, D, and D- grades).
- Since general education courses require a minimum grade of D-, loss of earned credits through Academic Clemency may also forfeit general education requirements.
- Repeating a course for which you have been granted Academic Clemency does not grant you exceptions to the repeat policy. Please see [Repeat Policy in the Undergraduate Catalog](#).

Am I able to use Academic Clemency for a course I completed after I was reenrolled?

No. Academic Clemency can only be used for courses that were taken prior to a five year absence from the University.

Academic Clemency, the Selection of a Major, and Special Opportunities

May I return to the same major upon reenrollment?

As part of the reenrollment process, your academic record will be evaluated to determine if you may stay in your major. This is a process separate from Academic Clemency.

Am I eligible for Academic Clemency if my major no longer exists?

If you were in a major that no longer exists, you must select a new major prior to reenrollment. Once reenrolled, you will meet with your academic advisor to discuss Academic Clemency.

Am I eligible to declare a Limited Enrollment Program (LEP) major if I have used Academic Clemency?

Please see [LEP requirements](#) for more information.

How does the Academic Clemency policy impact my ability to rejoin my living and learning program?

Students who had been previous members of living/learning communities, or special programs, and reenroll to the University should contact the director of the program to determine if they are still eligible for program participation. Academic Clemency is a separate issue.

Does Academic Clemency affect my admission to professional, or graduate, school?

Please check with the program to which you wish to apply to discuss your circumstance related to whether Academic Clemency would have an impact on your admission.

Academic record-related issues

If a grade in a course has already been removed from my cumulative GPA by virtue of the University's repeat policy, can the same grade be removed through Academic Clemency as well? For example, if I received an F in my first attempt of a course in my first semester at the University, then I repeated the course and earned a B. Can I receive Academic Clemency for my first attempt of the course?

No. If a grade has already been removed from your cumulative GPA by virtue of the repeat policy, it cannot be removed a second time by the Academic Clemency policy. Please contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar-help@umd.edu if you are unsure whether a repeated course is counting in the cumulative GPA calculation.

If both the initial and repeated attempts of a course are counted in my cumulative GPA based on the University's repeat policy, can Academic Clemency be used for my first attempt at the course? For example, if I received an F in a course taken after my first 24 attempted credits (including my transfer credits), then I repeated the course and earned a B, can I receive Academic Clemency for my first attempt of the course?

Yes. Since the F grade in this example has not been removed from your cumulative GPA calculation by virtue of the repeat policy, it is indeed eligible for Academic Clemency. Please contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar-help@umd.edu if you are unsure whether a repeated course is counting in the cumulative GPA calculation.

If both the initial and repeated attempts of a course are counted in my cumulative GPA based on the University's repeat policy, can Academic Clemency be used for both courses? For example, if I received an F in a course taken after my first 24 attempted credits (including my transfer credits), then I repeated the course and earned a D, can I receive Academic Clemency for both attempts of the course?

Yes. Since neither grade has been removed from your cumulative GPA calculation by virtue of the repeat policy, both attempts of the course are eligible for Academic Clemency. Please be aware, however, that the credits for each attempt will count toward the 16 total credits permitted by the policy (e.g. two attempts at a three-credit course will consume six credits of Academic Clemency). Please contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar-help@umd.edu if you are unsure whether a repeated course is counting in the cumulative GPA calculation.

I took a course in my first semester at the University and earned an F, then I repeated the course and earned a D. By virtue of the repeat policy, only the D is counting in my cumulative GPA. However, if my grade of D is removed through Academic Clemency, does the F from my original attempt begin to count in the cumulative GPA?

No. Your historic record will remain the same.

When will Academic Clemency appear on my transcript and be reflected in my cumulative GPA?

The Academic Clemency notation will appear on your transcript at the completion of the first fall, or spring, semester following your reenrollment to the University. The GPA adjustment occurs when final grades for the semester are calculated.

How will Academic Clemency appear on my transcript?

Each course for which Academic Clemency was granted will appear on your transcript under the semester of your reenrollment to the University, with an Academic Clemency notation. Please be aware, however, that all previous courses and grades will remain on your transcript--see [sample student record](#) for an example.

If I need to retake a course (for which I was granted Academic Clemency) for a third time, will this require an exception to the repeat policy?

Yes. All third attempts require an exception to the repeat policy from a student's advising college. All repeated courses (and course attempts) are included in the repeat credit total, including courses for which Academic Clemency has been granted.

Can I use Academic Clemency for a course in which I received an XF?

Yes. For the purpose of Academic Clemency, an XF is treated like an F for cumulative GPA calculations. However, like all courses and grades for which Academic Clemency has been granted, both the course and the XF will remain on your transcript.

If a course was 4 credits when I first attempted it, and now it is 3+1, will I be allowed to split the course and use only 3 credits of Academic Clemency?

No. If the course was taken as 4-credit course, the determination to use Academic Clemency is for all 4 credits.