Academic Clemency

Office of the Registrar
Undergraduate Studies

May 2016

62.0 III-1.30-POLICY ON ACADEMIC CLEMENCY
(Approved by the Board of Regents, February 22, 1990)
Each institution, in order to encourage students to resume their
pursuit of a baccalaureate degree after an academic separation of
at least five calendar years from the institution, may establish an
academic clemency policy that may remove or reduce the burden
of unsatisfactory or failing grades (as defined by the institution) earned previously at that institution.

http://www.umd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionIII/III130.html

III-1.30(A) UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND POLICY
AND PROCEDURES ON ACADEMIC
CLEMENCY (Approved by the President
August 1, 1991, Amended April 21, 2016)

Undergraduate degree-seeking students who have reenrolled at
the University of Maryland in pursuit of their initial
baccalaureate degree are eligible, after a separation of at least
five calendar years from the University (determined by the last
day of the last attended semester), for academic clemency.
Academic clemency is granted one time only, and subsequent
requests will be denied.

Application for academic clemency must be filed with the
Office of Undergraduate Studies (or designee) as soon as
possible, and before the end of the first semester of the
student’s return to the University. Clemency will be
recorded on the student’s record following the completion
of the student’s first semester of reenrollment. Under
clemency, up to 16 attempted credits of D+, D, D-, and F
grades from courses previously completed at the University
of Maryland will be removed from the calculation of the
student’s cumulative grade point average (GPA).

Attempted credits and grades for which clemency is granted will:
1. remain on the student’s transcript;
2. not be used to satisfy degree requirements;
3. be excluded from the student’s cumulative GPA calculation;
4. remain included in the calculation of Latin Honors; and
5. adhere to the institution’s repeat guidelines and be included in
   the student’s repeat limits.

The granting of clemency is contingent upon the student’s
satisfactory completion of the initial semester of
reenrollment, and will be recorded by the university at that
time. If the student’s first semester of registration upon
reenrollment is canceled, or the student withdraws from the
semester, clemency will not be granted (and the student will
retain the option of filing for clemency in the future).
Implementation

1. Student applies for reenrollment
2. Faculty petition board reviews application
3. SSO confirms major with college or student develops a graduation plan for a new major
4. SSO reenrolls student and puts note in ERS that student is eligible for clemency

Implementation

5. Student and advisor meet to register for classes
   • Advisor communicates to student that student is eligible for clemency
   • Student and advisor determine which courses will be included in the clemency process
   • Student and college advisor sign clemency form
   • Clemency form sent to registrar’s office. Form must be filed once student registers for first semester back, or at the latest, by the end of the first semester
   • Once clemency is filed, student cannot change courses for clemency

Implementation

6. Clemency is processed by Office of the Registrar once form is received but GPA will not reflect clemency until calculate is run

Advising Issues

• Clemency is available to student after a separation from the university of at least five calendar years (see chart).
• All repeated courses (and course attempts) are included in repeat credit total, including courses used for clemency.
• 16 credits

Advising Issues

• If the student withdraws from first semester (or cancels registration), clemency is not granted. However, student is eligible for clemency upon return and applied at the completion of the first semester back
• Students returning to UMD who were not degree seeking students prior to a five year absence are not eligible for clemency. This includes Young Scholars, concurrently enrolled high school students, Science in the Evening.

Advising Issues

• Academic Clemency Policy
• Implementation Steps
• Academic Clemency Eligibility Dates

Handouts for Advisors

• Students
• Advisors

FAQs???