

# 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.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionIII/III130.html>

## Maryland Higher Education Commission

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

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.

## Academic Clemency Policy

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).

## Academic Clemency Policy

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.

## Academic Clemency Policy

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).

## Academic Clemency Policy

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

## Implementation

## Academic Clemency Eligibility

Student's last term of enrollment	Soonest semester of students eligibility for Clemency
201101	201608
201105	201608
201107	201608
201108	201701
201112	201701
201201	201708
201205	201708
201207	201708
201208	201801
201212	201801
201301	201808
201305	201808
201307	201808
201308	201901
201312	201901
201401	201908
201405	201908
201407	201908
201408	202001
201412	202001
201501	202008
201505	202008
201507	202008

## 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

## Advising Issues

- 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**

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- Academic Clemency Policy
- Implementation Steps
- Academic Clemency Eligibility Dates

## **Handouts for Advisors**

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- Students
- Advisors

## **FAQs???**

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