



Policy AC008: Fresh Start

Recommended for Approval by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Engstrom", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Engstrom, Ed.D.
Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs,
Pennsylvania Western University

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Lorraine Bernotsky", written over a horizontal line.

R. Lorraine Bernotsky, D.Phil., Interim President,
Pennsylvania Western University

Effective Date: 08/07/2023

A. Intent

To define the conditions under which an undergraduate student may be reinstated to Pennsylvania Western University with some previous grades removed from the GPA calculation.

B. Definition(s)

Not Applicable.

C. Policy

The Fresh Start program allows a student with a previous poor academic record to readmit to PennWest, minimizing the negative impact of previous poor grades on their academic record. Through Fresh Start, any grades of D+ and below earned prior to readmission will be removed from grade point average (GPA) calculations and will not count as credits earned toward graduation. All credits from course grades C- and above earned prior to readmission will count as credits earned toward graduation, but will not count in GPA calculations.

Students readmitting to the university under this option should consult with the Financial Aid office regarding any implications for aid qualifications.

The student may only use the Fresh Start option one time during their PennWest career.

The following conditions apply:

- The student must have a *minimum* absence of two (2) consecutive years from PennWest university. This consecutive absence will also apply to attendance at California, Clarion, and Edinboro Universities.

- At the time of request for readmission to the university, the student must be a *first-time, baccalaureate-seeking, undergraduate* student. Fresh Start does not apply to students seeking a second baccalaureate degree.
- The student must have a cumulative grade point average of less than 2.00 at the time of the request for readmission.
- The student requesting a Fresh Start must successfully complete at least 12 credits upon readmission and achieve a minimum 2.00 GPA from those credits. If the student fails to meet these conditions, the Fresh Start option will not apply, and all previously earned grades will apply to their academic record.

D. Procedure(s)

1. The student will apply for readmission to PennWest. If the student is aware of the Fresh Start option, they may indicate interest to the Admissions Counselor. Otherwise, the Admissions Office will notify all students meeting the conditions for Fresh Start once the readmission application has been received.
2. Upon completion of 12 credit hours and earning at least a 2.00 GPA, the student then submits the Fresh Start form to the Office of the Registrar for processing.

E. Related policies

Academic Standing – Undergraduate Students Policy (AC006)

Graduation Requirements Policy (AC028)

Readmission Policy (AC049)

F. Contact Information

For additional information, please contact the Center of Student Outreach and Success.

G. Policy Review Schedule

All policies will be reviewed every two years or on an as needed basis if a change in BOG, PASSHE or Pennsylvania law would create the need for an immediate change.