



## Proposal to Establish a University Policy on Repeating Undergraduate Courses

**PRESENTED BY** Thomas Cohen, Chair

**REVIEW DATES** SEC – April 8, 2019 | SENATE – April 24, 2019

**VOTING METHOD** In a single vote

**RELEVANT POLICY/DOCUMENT** [Undergraduate Catalog Repeat Course Guidelines](#)

**NECESSARY APPROVALS** Senate, President

### ISSUE

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In September 2018, the Office of Undergraduate Studies submitted a proposal to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) to formalize the existing repeated course practice for undergraduate courses into official policy. Students face inconsistent requirements across colleges/schools for repeating courses under current practice. The goals of the proposed policy were clarity, consistency, the promotion of student success, and maintaining the integrity of the student transcript. The SEC voted to charge the Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee with reviewing the proposal and current provisions in the Undergraduate Catalog; reviewing similar policies and practices at Big 10 and peer institutions; consulting with various stakeholders; and recommending whether the University should establish a formal policy on repeating undergraduate courses.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

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The APAS Committee recommends that the proposed University of Maryland Undergraduate Student Course Repeat Policy immediately following this report be approved.

The APAS Committee recommends that the University of Maryland Undergraduate Student Course Repeat Policy become effective the first day of classes of Fall 2020.

The Office of Undergraduate Studies and the Office of the Registrar should develop Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to explain the new policy and its provisions and to address common questions.

The Office of Undergraduate Studies and the Office of the Registrar should develop a comprehensive communication and messaging strategy to ensure that the campus community is aware of the new policy and changes to current practice.

The University should revise the Undergraduate Catalog, University webpages, and relevant informational resources to align with the provisions in the new policy.

The University should conduct a review of the implementation of the new policy and the appropriateness of the 18-credit repeat limit in Fall 2025 to assess efficacy and make any necessary adjustments.

## **COMMITTEE WORK**

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The APAS committee reviewed the process that went into the proposal's development and how course repeats are currently processed. It established a subcommittee, comprised of committee members and representatives from the Office of the Registrar, to revise the policy based on suggestions made by the full committee. The subcommittee discussed the content and structure of the proposed policy and worked to align it with current practice. The new policy would make several changes to current practice, including expanding the definition of "repeat course" and imposing two main limits on course repeats: students may not repeat more than 18 credits, and students may only repeat any course one time. The committee voted unanimously to approve the new University of Maryland Undergraduate Student Course Repeat Policy and several administrative recommendations at its meeting on March 29, 2019.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

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The Senate could choose not to approve the proposed policy and recommendations, leaving the existing repeated course practice in effect without the authority of official policy.

## **RISKS**

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There are no associated risks.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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There are no financial implications.



## **Proposal to Establish a University Policy on Repeating Undergraduate Courses**

### **2018-2019 Committee**

**Thomas Cohen** (Chair)  
**Deanna Barath** (Graduate Student)  
**Progyan Basu** (Faculty)  
**Lauren Brown** (Undergraduate Student)  
**William Cohen** (Ex-Officio Provost's Rep)  
**Linda Coleman** (Faculty)  
**Adrian Cornelius** (Ex-Officio University Registrar)  
**Jeffrey Franke** (Ex-Officio Graduate School Rep)  
**Lee Friedman** (Faculty)  
**Shannon Gundy** (Ex-Officio Rep for Director of Undergraduate Admissions)  
**Agisilaos Iliadis** (Faculty)  
**Lisa Kiely** (Ex-Officio Undergraduate Studies Rep)

**Byung-Eun Kim** (Faculty)  
**Roberto Korzeniewicz** (Faculty)  
**Marilee Lindemann** (Faculty)  
**Celina McDonald** (Faculty)  
**Benjamin Parrish** (Undergraduate Student)  
**Julian Savelski** (Exempt Staff)  
**Michael Sparrow** (Exempt Staff)  
**David Straney** (Faculty)  
**Elizabeth Warner** (Faculty)

### **Date of Submission**

**March 2019**

## **BACKGROUND**

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In September 2018, the Office of Undergraduate Studies submitted a proposal to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) to formalize the existing repeated course practice for undergraduate courses into official policy. The goals of the proposed policy were clarity, consistency, the promotion of student success, and maintaining the integrity of the student transcript. The SEC reviewed the proposal at its meeting on September 21, 2018. The SEC voted to charge the Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee with reviewing the proposal and current provisions in the Undergraduate Catalog; reviewing similar policies and practices at Big 10 and peer institutions; consulting with various stakeholders, and recommending whether the University should establish a formal policy on repeating undergraduate courses (Appendix 2).

## **CURRENT PRACTICE**

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The University does not have an official policy dictating how repeated courses are treated in an undergraduate student's record, nor what, if any, limits are imposed on the repetition of courses. The current practice is described in the Undergraduate Catalog, but without the backing of official policy there have been significant variations in the application of the practice across colleges/schools. Under current practice, students may take multiple iterations of cross-listed courses without the additional courses being considered repeats. In addition, transferred credits for courses initially taken at the University are also not considered repeats under current practice, which can allow students to manipulate their GPA by repeating courses at another institution. The University also currently supports a repeat process informally known as "freshman forgiveness" that allows students to repeat courses initially taken upon their arrival at the University and to replace their original grade with the better of the two.

## COMMITTEE WORK

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The APAS Committee began its review in October 2019. A representative from the Office of Undergraduate Studies provided an overview of the proposal and the process that went into its development and representatives from the Office of the Registrar provided a presentation on how course repeats are currently processed. Over the course of the next several committee meetings, members reviewed the language of the proposed policy at length and made preliminary suggestions for potential revisions. The committee agreed to establish a subcommittee, comprised of committee members and representatives from the Office of the Registrar, to revise the proposed policy based on suggestions made by the full committee.

The subcommittee met six times to discuss the content and structure of the proposed policy and worked to align it with current practice. The subcommittee presented an updated policy draft to the full committee and considered feedback on several additional revisions to the policy.

The key considerations for the policy are presented below.

### Limitations on Repeats

The committee discussed whether there should be limitations on repeats and whether 18 credits is an appropriate overall repeat limit. Members suggested that increasing the limit beyond 18 credits could encourage students to challenge themselves and take more difficult courses. The Office of the Registrar found that if the 18-credit limit was currently in place, very few students would be negatively affected by it. The committee agreed that the specific overall repeat limit should be reviewed in the future to assess its effects on student success and determine whether it should be adjusted.

Research shows that the sooner students are in majors in which they can be successful, the more likely it is that they will graduate in a reasonable amount of time. Placing limits on repeating courses helps students and advisors recognize when students may not be successful in a particular major. This can be more clear if students are unable to pass prerequisite courses without multiple repeats.

The proposed policy would impose two main limits on course repeats: students may not repeat more than 18 credits, and students may only repeat any course one time. The proposed policy expands the definition of repeated course to include cross-listed and transfer courses. In addition, the proposed policy would establish that the grades from all attempts at a course would be included in a student's cumulative GPA calculations, except for those that fall under the New Student Provision (see below), but also clarifies that students would only earn credit from one attempt at a course.

### Definition of Repeats

The proposed policy would expand and clarify the current definition of "repeat course" to address inconsistent practices across campus. In particular, it would classify cross-listed and transfer courses as repeats if the initial attempt was taken at the University. The definition of "repeat course" would also include courses that maintain the same content but have changed course numbers, and courses that have similar content but do not have the same course number.

Expanding the definition of "repeat course" to include transfer courses would help to prevent the manipulation of GPAs. Students can currently use transfer courses to manipulate their

GPA because transfer credits are not counted towards GPA calculations at UMD. When students repeat courses off-campus, the low grade from the UMD course would be removed from a student's GPA without anything taking its place, and the student would still receive credit for the course. Processing a transfer course as a repeat credit limits students' ability to utilize this loophole.

### New Student Provision

The New Student Provision codifies the current practice commonly referred to as "freshman forgiveness." The Provision would allow new incoming and transfer students to repeat courses taken during their initial term at the University and to replace the grade from the original attempt with the grade from the repeat course in the student's GPA calculation. In some cases, however, a student's GPA could benefit from the inclusion of both grades. For example, if a student receives a "B" on their initial attempt at a course during their first year, an "A" on their repeat of the course, and "C"s in many of the other courses in their college career. In such a case, the student could benefit from the inclusion of the "B" in their GPA calculation. In order to facilitate student success, the proposed policy allows students an opportunity to decline the New Student Provision, in which case both grades would be included in the calculation of their cumulative GPA.

### Peer Research

Course repeat practices and policies vary widely at Big 10 and peer institutions. Half of the Big 10 institutions only allow courses to be repeated one time, and establish a limit on the total number of courses or credits a student may repeat. The large majority of institutions record all grades for repeated courses on the transcript, regardless of whether grades for all attempts are included in GPA calculations. However, practices vary widely on which attempts are included in GPA calculations. Because there are wide variations in practices across peer institutions, the committee agreed to focus on specific issues at this University.

After due consideration, the APAS Committee voted unanimously to approve the new University of Maryland Undergraduate Student Course Repeat Policy and several administrative recommendations at its meeting on March 29, 2019.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The APAS Committee recommends that the proposed University of Maryland Undergraduate Student Course Repeat Policy immediately following this report be approved.

The APAS Committee recommends that the University of Maryland Undergraduate Student Course Repeat Policy become effective the first day of classes of Fall 2020.

The Office of Undergraduate Studies and the Office of the Registrar should develop Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to explain the new policy and its provisions and to address common questions.

The Office of Undergraduate Studies and the Office of the Registrar should develop a comprehensive communication and messaging strategy to ensure that the campus community is aware of the new policy and changes to current practice.

The University should revise the Undergraduate Catalog, University webpages, and relevant informational resources to align with the provisions in the new policy.

The University should conduct a review of the implementation of the new policy and the appropriateness of the 18-credit repeat limit in Fall 2025 to assess efficacy and make any necessary adjustments.

## **APPENDICES**

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Appendix 1 — Peer Research

Appendix 2 — Charge from the Senate Executive Committee

## Proposed New Policy from the APAS Committee

### University of Maryland Undergraduate Student Course Repeat Policy

#### I. Purpose

Undergraduate students at the University of Maryland may repeat courses within the guidelines specified in this policy. The University acknowledges that students may not realize success in an initial attempt at a course for a variety of reasons. This policy aims to address those challenges while promoting timely progress towards completion of degree programs and the efficient use of instructional resources.

#### II. Policy

A. It is the policy of the University of Maryland that undergraduate students may repeat courses that were initially attempted at the University in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. A course that was previously attempted at the University can be repeated once.
2. A maximum of 18 attempted credits may be repeated.

B. Exceptions to Section II-A

1. A student may request an exception to this policy due to extenuating circumstances by appealing to the dean of the student's primary advising college and by providing the following:
  - a) A well-documented justification for granting such an exception;
  - b) The student's plan for successfully completing the course and degree; and
  - c) The student's planned course of action should the exception not facilitate the desired outcome.

#### III. Definitions

A. An **"Attempt"** of a course refers to a course taken at the University for which a student received a grading symbol or marking (A+ through F, XF, P, S, W, I, NG, or AU) identified in the University of Maryland Grading Symbols and Notations Used on Academic Transcripts (III-6.20[A]). An "Attempt" also refers to a course taken at another institution subsequent to an Attempt taken at the University of Maryland. An "Attempt" does not refer to a course taken during a

semester in which a complete withdrawal (designated with a WW) was processed.

- B. An **“Initial Attempt”** of a course refers to the first time the course was attempted at the University of Maryland.
- C. **“Prior Learning Credit”** refers to academic credit awarded for knowledge and achievements gained through prior learning, or competency-based education experiences as described in the University of Maryland Policy and Procedures Concerning Credit for Prior Learning (III-1.41[A]).
- D. **“Repeated Course”** refers to a subsequent Attempt of a course initially attempted at the University of Maryland that has not been designated as repeatable for additional credit, as described in Section IV below.
- E. **“Transfer Credit”** refers to academic credit awarded for post-secondary courses generally completed at regionally accredited institutions of higher education.

#### IV. Types of Repeated Courses

- A. A course is considered a repeat if it is:
  - 1. the same course with the same course number;
  - 2. the same course offered under a new number (indicated in the Schedule of Classes as “Formerly”);
  - 3. the same course offered using a cross-listed number (indicated in the Schedule of Classes as “Also offered as” or “Credit only granted for”);
  - 4. a different course in which content and learning objectives overlap sufficiently with those of the original course, such that course credit should not be earned for both courses (indicated in the Schedule of Classes as “Credit only granted for”); or
  - 5. a transfer course that is determined to be equivalent to a University of Maryland course, and is taken after the Initial Attempt at the University.
- B. Some courses may not be available for a subsequent Attempt, or may have restrictions in place that do not allow a student to retake them.



V. Impact of Repeated Courses on Total Credits Earned and GPA Calculation

All University of Maryland grades and course Attempts will remain on the student's transcript.

- A. Total Credits Earned: students earn credit for only one Attempt of a course. The earned credit comes from the most recent Attempt of the course.
- B. GPA Calculation: students' cumulative GPA calculations will include all credits attempted in courses at the University of Maryland, except as described in section VI below.

VI. New Student Provision

- A. To assist in the transition to the University of Maryland, cumulative GPAs for undergraduate students will be calculated using only the most recent grade from Repeated Courses attempted at the University in accordance with the following conditions:
  - 1. When the Initial Attempt of the Repeated Course was taken within the student's first semester (Fall or Spring semester) at the University of Maryland; or
  - 2. When the Initial Attempt of the Repeated Course was taken prior to or within the term in which the student reaches their 24<sup>th</sup> credit hour attempted, including transfer credits earned after high school graduation.
- B. Students may decline the New Student Provision for any course(s) by notifying the dean of their primary advising college at any time prior to the graduation application deadline of the student's term of graduation. The decision to decline the New Student Provision is final and will result in all corresponding grades being included in the GPA calculation.
- C. The New Student Provision can only be exercised for Attempts and repeats of courses taken at the University of Maryland and does not apply to Transfer or Prior Learning Credit.

Appendix 1: Peer Research

Institution	Most recent amendment/approval	Repeats Allowable Per Course	Additional Possible?	Repeat Limit	GPA Policy	Credit Policy	Exemptions	Transcript
University of Maryland - College Park	Approved 1990	1	1 more with permission of the student's dean's office; student must present plan for successfully completing the course; all attempts will count towards limit for repeatable credits	18 credits (if a student withdraws from all courses in a semester, a repeated course's credits won't be counted for that semester)	All attempts resulting in standard grading (A+ through F) will be included in GPA except in certain circumstances (see "Exemptions")	(Unknown/Not listed)	Only the higher grade of a repeated course will be calculated in the GPA if the repeated course was taken in the student's first semester at UMD *or* if the repeated course was taken during or before the semester in which the 24th credit hour was earned (including transfer credits; AP credits do not count towards this limit) *or* if the course was repeated after taking the course at another institution prior to transferring to UMD (in which case, the UMD grade-- if higher-- will be the only one included in the GPA)	All grades from all attempts at a repeated course will appear on transcript, regardless of whether the course is included in GPA
Indiana University	Amended 2011; approved 1994	1 (for courses in which student earned a letter grade lower than "A"; different units might apply this policy in different ways, so students must speak with their advisors)	No	10 credits or 3 courses (whichever is less)	Only the second attempt will be reflected in GPA, although both attempts will appear on transcript (original attempt's grade will appear with an "X" next to it)	(Unknown/Not listed)	Grades that cannot be replaced by repeat: S, P, W, I, R, NC	All grades from all attempts will appear on transcript; first attempt's grade will appear with an "X" next to it
Michigan State University	(Unknown/Not listed)	(for courses who received a grade lower than 2.0)	(Unknown/Not listed)	20 credits	Only the last attempt is included. Transfer courses are not included in GPA calculations.	Only the last attempt is included	(Unknown/Not listed)	All grades are recorded
Northwestern University	(Unknown/Not listed)	Yes (circumstances unclear)	(Unknown/Not listed)	Depends on particular course and unit	All attempts are included	Credit earned only once (following attempt with highest grade)	(Unknown/Not listed)	All grades are recorded
Ohio State University	Approved 2000; approved (amended?) 2005	1 (with permission)	No	3 courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both grades are used on record. And both are factored into the grade</li> <li>o Student may get C then take it again then get an A. Both the 2.0 and 4.0 will factor into overall GPA unless student applies for grade forgiveness</li> </ul>	Credit hours should not be counted more than once. Whether or not you have approval	Recalculation of GPA may be possible after re-enrollment following a 5+ year absence from the university (see 3335-8-26.1)	All grades recorded
Pennsylvania State University	Amended 2016	2 (for courses with D or lower or "Unsatisfactory" ; grade of C can be retaken with consultation with advisor)	1 more with dean's permission	(Unknown/Not listed)	All attempts included	All attempts included (but counts only once towards graduation requirement)	If student withdraws from session or semester, courses are given a "W" and are not counted as attempts	All grades included

Institution	Most recent amendment/approval	Repeats Allowable Per Course	Additional Possible?	Repeat Limit	GPA Policy	Credit Policy	Exemptions	Transcript
<b>Purdue University</b>	Approved 1977; amended 2013	2. Regulations will define if a course is repeatable for credit	No	(Unknown/Not listed)	Only the most recent grade included	(Unknown/Not listed)	School of pharmacy: only 1 repeat allowed	(Unknown/Not listed)
<b>Rutgers University</b>	Amended 2014	(for courses in which student received D or F)	(Unknown/Not listed)	Up to 16 credits or 4 courses (for removing lower grade from GPA)	Only the last attempt is included	Only the last attempt is included	After 16 credits or 4 courses, all attempts of courses will be calculated into GPA (unsure if all will count towards credit); repeat policy cannot be used for "F" received due to punitive reasons, such as academic dishonesty; repeat policy cannot be used for retroactive inclusion in Dean's List or revocation of unsatisfactory scholastic standing status	All grades included (excluded attempt marked with prefix "E"; included attempt marked with prefix "R")
<b>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</b>	Amended 2010	1 (for grade replacement). - Some courses limit the number of hours you can repeat a course - Someone could theoretically apply to a course 20 times if they wanted to	With permission (but not for grade replacement)	Unlimited number of attempts but everything is included in GPA.	Higher attempt included in the GPA for a one time deal. Grades can be replaced for up to 10 credit hours. Have to earn C- or lower to use grade replacement. Both attempts included on transcript. 2nd attempt automatically counted toward grade replacement. • 3 separate GPAs on transcript- institutional GPA, transfer GPA, and overall GPA ( transfer credits impact overall GPA, but they cannot use grade replacement on the transfer credits) o If there was an academic violation at the other university, there's no way to know that	Credit is only counted once	(Unknown/Not listed)	All grades recorded
<b>University of Iowa</b>	Approved 1969	1	No	Students may retake as many courses as they want, but can only replace the first grade 3 times. All other repeats will show up on GPA as an average of both grades.	Second attempt included	Credit only received for one instance of taking a course	Different programs may have different policies, especially professional programs (which may calculate GPA with all attempts at courses)	All grades recorded
<b>University of Michigan</b>	Amended 2005	2	No	(Unknown/Not listed)	Most recent attempt only included	Most recent attempt only included	Different programs have different limits on repeats	All grades recorded
<b>University of Minnesota</b>	Amended 2013	1	1 more with permission	No limit to the amount of courses they can repeat, but students who repeat many courses will be put on probation and eventually suspension.	Most recent attempt only included	Credit is only counted once	(Unknown/Not listed)	All grades recorded
<b>University of Nebraska - Lincoln</b>	(Unknown; "Effective 2016 and earlier", per source document)	1	With permission	(Unknown/Not listed)	Higher attempt will be included and lower attempt excluded (lower than C)	Credit is only counted once	(Unknown/Not listed)	All grades are recorded
<b>University of Wisconsin - Madison</b>	(Unknown; "in effect since 1980", per source document)	(for courses in which a student earned an "F")	(Unknown/Not listed)	(Unknown/Not listed)	All attempts are included	Credit is only counted once	No universal academic forgiveness policy but Dean can possibly evaluate student records (very rare)	All grades are recorded



## Proposal to Establish a University Policy on Repeating Undergraduate Courses (Senate Document #18-19-09)

APAS Committee | Chair: Thomas Cohen

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and Senate Chair Walsh request that the Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee review the Proposal to Establish a University Policy on Repeating Undergraduate Courses.

Specifically, it asks that you:

1. Review the University's existing [Repeat Course Guidelines](#) in the Undergraduate Catalog.
2. Consult with the proposer.
3. Consult with a representative of the Office of the Registrar.
4. Consult with a representative of the Office of Undergraduate Studies for their perspectives on the impact of the proposed policy on student success.
5. Consult with the Undergraduate Ombudsperson to understand how students are affected because the repeat course guidelines are not formal policy.
6. Consult with the Undergraduate Programs Advisory Committee (UPAC).
7. Consult with the Senate Student Affairs Committee.
8. Review similar policies on repeating undergraduate courses at Big 10 and other peer institutions.
9. Consult with a representative of the Office of General Counsel on any proposed changes to University policy or associated guidelines.
10. If appropriate, recommend whether the University should establish a formal policy on repeating undergraduate courses and submit recommendations for Senate consideration.

We ask that you submit a report to the Senate Office no later than **March 1, 2019**. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Reka Montfort in the Senate Office, extension 5-5804.

**Proposal to Establish a University Policy on Repeating Undergraduate Courses****NAME/TITLE** Doug Roberts**EMAIL** [roberts@umd.edu](mailto:roberts@umd.edu)**PHONE** X5-9357**UNIT** Office of Undergraduate Studies**CONSTITUENCY** Faculty**DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE**

The campus does not currently have an official policy dictating how repeated courses are treated in an undergraduate student's record, nor what if any limits are imposed on the repetition of courses. The effective practice is described in the Undergraduate Catalog, but without the backing of official policy students have little solid ground on which to stand when trying to rectify problems caused by the potentially varied interpretation and implementation of this practice around campus. Furthermore, the current practice handles different conditions of repeating courses in sometimes inconsistent manners. Greater consistency and clarity to the handling of repeated courses would be a benefit to students, faculty, advisors and administrators alike.

**DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE**

First and foremost, we would like to see the repeated course practice elevated to official policy. A workgroup consisting of Assistant/Associate Deans and representative from the Registrar's Office convened and generated a draft (attached) of a proposed repeat policy for undergraduate students. This draft was informed by interviews with advising offices from each College or School on campus, a survey of similar policies from peer institutions, and nearly a year of discussion around the guiding principles that such a policy should abide. The goals were clarity, consistency, the promotion of student success, and maintaining the integrity of the student transcript.

**SUGGESTION FOR HOW YOUR PROPOSAL WOULD BE PUT INTO PRACTICE**

The proposed Undergraduate Course Repeat Policy is, for the most part, a formalization of existing practices in the form of official University policy. There are, however, a few places where the proposed policy differs from existing practice. To the extent that these changes would have to be implemented in our Student Information System, the input of the Registrar's Office would be required to estimate the timeline and cost of such changes. But most of the current implementation involves manual processes. Therefore, most of the implementation would require training and communication.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

A draft of the proposed Undergraduate Course Repeat Policy is included as an attachment.

# Course Repeat Policy - Undergraduate Students

## Introduction

Undergraduate students at the University of Maryland are allowed to repeat courses within the guidelines specified in this policy. The policy aims to strike a balance among several concerns: promoting timely progress toward and the successful completion of degree programs; efficient utilization of instructional resources; an understanding that students, for a variety of reasons, may not realize success in an initial attempt at a course; and a recognition that the adjustment to the University of Maryland campus is not always easy.

## Definitions

- For the purposes of this policy a **Repeated Course** will be defined as an attempt beyond the initial attempt of a University of Maryland course that has not been designated as repeatable for additional content. The subsequent attempt at the course may be either:
  - The same course with the same course number
  - The same course offered under a new number
    - Indicated in the Schedule of Classes as “Previously offered as...”
  - The same course offered using a cross-listed number
    - Indicated in the Schedule of Classes as “Also offered as...”
  - A different course whose content and learning objectives overlap sufficiently with the content and learning objectives of the original course such that course credit should not be earned for both courses
    - Indicated in the Schedule of Classes as “Credit may only be granted for one of...”
  - A transfer course that has been evaluated as being equivalent to the University of Maryland course

It should be noted that some courses may not be repeatable. For example, a course may not be offered again, or a course may have restrictions in place that would not permit a student to repeat it.

In this definition of Repeated Course initial attempt only refers to courses that are taken as resident credit at the University of Maryland. If a student receives transfer or prior learning credit for a course and subsequently takes the course at the University of Maryland, the first attempt at Maryland would not be considered a repeat.

- An **Attempt** at a course refers to a course for which a student received a grade of A+ through F, XF, P, S, W, I, NG, or AU (a notation of WW does not count as an attempt).

- **Prior Learning Credit** refers to academic credit awarded for knowledge and achievements gained through prior learning/competency-based education experiences. Details regarding acceptable forms of prior learning credit are given in Maryland Policy III-1.41(A).
- **Transfer Credit** generally refers to academic credit awarded for college-level courses completed through regionally accredited institutions of higher education, provided that the transfer course is similar in level, scope, content and expected learning outcomes to courses offered at the University of Maryland and a grade of C- or higher is earned (grades of D- or higher for courses completed at Maryland public institutions). Details regarding acceptable forms of transfer credit are given in the Undergraduate Catalog.

## Limits on Repeats

The following limits apply to repeating courses:

1. Students are allowed ONE repeat of a previously attempted course.
2. Students are allowed up to 18 attempted repeat credits.

## Exceptions to Repeat Limits

Under very unusual circumstances, a student may obtain an exception to these limitations by appealing to the dean of the student's primary advising college. The justification for granting such exceptions must be well documented and include, at a minimum, the student's plan for successfully completing the course and degree, and a contingency plan (such as changing majors) should the exception not facilitate the desired outcome.

## Effect of Repeated Courses on Total Credits Earned

Students will not receive duplicative credit for repeated courses. When the repeated attempt of a course is at a lower credit level than the original attempt, the student will lose credit upon a completed repeat attempt. This loss of credit also applies to cases where Prior Learning Credit or Transfer Credit has been awarded, followed by an attempt at a University of Maryland course whose content is deemed equivalent and whose credit level is lower. In all cases, the earned credit will come from the most recent attempt of a course.

## Effect of Repeated Courses on GPA

With the exception of the New Student Forgiveness policy described below, all grades earned in courses at the University of Maryland will enter into the student's official Maryland cumulative GPA calculation. While repeated courses will not earn academic credit multiple times, all grades will be used in the GPA calculation.

## New Student Forgiveness

To help freshmen and transfer students adjust to the University of Maryland, the following two exceptions allow for the student's cumulative GPA to be calculated using only the most recent grade from repeated courses taken at the University of Maryland:

1. when the repeated course was taken within the student's first regular (Fall or Spring) semester at Maryland (this normally applies to students who begin at the University as a transfer student), or
2. when the repeated course was taken either prior to or within the semester during which the student reached 24 credit hours attempted (including transfer credit) (this normally applies to students who begin at the University as freshmen) .

The grade or grades from any attempt at a course at Maryland that falls within either of these two conditions shall be replaced in the cumulative GPA calculation by the most recent earned grade provided that all attempts were taken with the same grading method. All grades will, however, remain on the student's transcript and all attempts at the course will enter into the student's total repeated credits and course attempts calculations. **Note:** grades from Prior Learning Credit or Transfer Credit are never calculated into the Maryland cumulative GPA. Also, New Student Forgiveness only applies to courses taken at the University of Maryland. Neither transfer nor prior learning credit can be used to satisfy the conditions above.

Students may appeal to the dean of the student's primary advising college if they want to forgo the New Student Forgiveness being applied and keep all grades in their GPA calculation. This practice can only be exercised for attempts at courses taken at the University of Maryland and does not apply to transfer or prior learning credit.