



**A RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS
POLICY (21/1)**

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate unanimously passed the First-Year Forgiveness Policy in February 2017 with an amendment stating that the policy must be reviewed within three years of its implementation; and

WHEREAS, nine of GW's peer institutions have a university-wide Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness Policy that allows students to repeat at least three courses for forgiveness that were originally attempted at any point during their undergraduate experience; and

WHEREAS, some GW students currently have the ability to take upper-level courses sooner than others due to disparate access to secondary educational resources such as Advanced Placement and IB assessments, resulting in an inequitable ability to use the First-Year Forgiveness Policy; and

WHEREAS, low-income students face a unique set of academic pressures that impact them throughout their undergraduate experience and must maintain good academic standing in order to qualify for the financial aid that allows them to continue attending the University;

WHEREAS, studies illustrate that mental illness such as anxiety and depression typically affect second- and third-year students at higher rates than other undergraduate class standings; and

WHEREAS, academic rigor is essential to achieving preeminent university curriculum and it is crucial for students to be provided with support systems that allow them to challenge themselves to take on robust course loads.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

That the Faculty Senate hereby recommends that the following paragraphs replace the First-Year Forgiveness Policy in the University Bulletin, effective with the Fall 2020 semester:

Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness Policy

Undergraduate students are eligible to repeat for credit and grade forgiveness three undergraduate-level courses taken at GW in which they received a grade of D+ (1.3) or below (except if the failing grade was due to a violation of GW's Code of Academic Integrity). With the approval of their academic advisor, a student may repeat a course under this policy at any time during their enrollment at GW; however, a course is not eligible for this policy if the student has taken a subsequent course for which the initial course is a prerequisite. The student's registration, including the repeated course, may not exceed 18 credits in the semester in which the course is repeated; students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science may not exceed 19 credits.

Under this policy, the original grade remains on the transcript until the student repeats the course. Once the course is repeated, a permanent notation of RP replaces the grade for the first attempt of the course in the semester in which it was taken. The grade earned in the repeated course appears on the transcript in the semester in which the course was repeated. Only the grade earned for the repeat enrollment is factored into the student's cumulative grade-point average. The grade for the repeat enrollment is the final grade for the course, regardless of whether it is above or below the original grade. In the case that a student wishes to repeat more than three courses for academic forgiveness, they must first receive approval from the chair of the department under which the course is housed.

Educational Policy & Technology Committee
March 31, 2020

Adopted by the Faculty Senate
May 8, 2020

Appendix (from the University Bulletin)

First-Year Academic Forgiveness Policy

Undergraduate students are eligible to repeat for credit one course, taken at GW during their first academic year (first semester for transfer students), in which they received a grade of *D+* (1.3) or below. A student may repeat a course under this policy at any time during their enrollment at GW; however, a course is not eligible for this policy if the student has taken a subsequent course for which the initial course is a prerequisite. The student's registration, including the repeated course, may not exceed 18 credits in the semester in which the course is repeated; students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science may not exceed 19 credits.

Under this policy, the original grade remains on the transcript until the student repeats the course. Once the course is repeated, a permanent notation replaces the grade for the first attempt of the course in the semester in which it was taken. The grade earned in the repeated course appears on the transcript in the semester in which the course was repeated. Only the grade earned for the repeat enrollment is factored into the student's cumulative grade-point average. The grade for the repeat enrollment is the final grade for the course, regardless of whether it is above or below the original grade.