

**Scholastic Standards Committee  
To the University Senate  
Approved March 6, 2023**

**Background:**

The Scholastic Standards Committee proposes to add academic renewal option to the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate. This academic renewal option, which is known at some universities as fresh start, academic forgiveness, or academic clemency, allows students who have been separated from the university for a significant period to omit a certain number of courses from GPA calculation. The option is designed to provide motivation, incentive, and access for those students hoping to return to UConn to complete their degree. It would allow students to represent their academic work more clearly at the point and time they are completing their degree and remove barriers, both real and perceived, to degree completion.

An academic renewal option has been under consideration by the University since at least 2018. The current committee feels that the implementation of the policy is particularly timely, given the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on students.

Many of our peer and aspirant institutions have an academic renewal or fresh start option, including Indiana University, Purdue University, University of Georgia, University of Kansas, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, and University of Maryland.

**Current By-Law:**

By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, II.B.12, Readmission

*12. Readmission*

A student seeking readmission to the University must apply through the Dean of Students Office. Readmission is not guaranteed. Criteria used in determining readmission include, but are not limited to, academic progress, university discipline history, and criminal history. All applications for readmission must be evaluated through the Dean of Students Office who will convene a readmission board including the deans' designees. The standards for academic evaluation can be found at the website of each school/college, the Dean of Students Office and the Regional Campus Student Service Offices. The attention of such students is called to the following University regulations:

1. A student who wishes to apply toward a degree credits earned more than eight years before graduation must obtain permission from the dean of the school or college concerned and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.
2. All readmitted students (except those who are on an official leave of absence returning to their previous school or college) must satisfy the academic requirements of the school or college to which readmitted as stated in the catalog effective at the time of readmission, unless a subsequent catalog is elected. (9/6/2013)

## **Proposed By-Law:**

### By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, II.B.12, Readmission

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1. A student who wishes to apply toward a degree credits earned more than eight years before graduation must obtain permission from the dean of the school or college concerned and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.
2. All readmitted students (except those who are on an official leave of absence returning to their previous school or college) must satisfy the academic requirements of the school or college to which readmitted as stated in the catalog effective at the time of readmission, unless a subsequent catalog is elected.
3. Undergraduate students who have been separated from the university for at least eight consecutive semesters may seek academic renewal at the time of their application for readmission. Through academic renewal, a student may remove up to 16 credits of coursework with a grade of C- or lower from their GPA calculation after rematriculating at UConn. These courses must have been taken previously at the University of Connecticut. The registered grade, earned credits, and grade points for these courses shall remain on the transcript but will no longer calculate into the GPA. Students shall not receive credit toward their degree for courses placed on academic renewal. Academic renewal can be used only once and is limited to those completing their first bachelor's degree at UConn.