A Second Look: Developing an Academic Forgiveness Policy
NACADA Annual Conference – Monday, October 5, 2015
Time: 10:15 am - 11:15 am Pisa/Palermo

Abstract:

In 2010 the University of Iowa initiated ReStart, an academic forgiveness policy created to address the needs of students who had left without completing an undergraduate degree. GPA deficits posed an almost insurmountable barrier to their degree completion. The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences proposed and implemented academic forgiveness policies and procedures that were adopted University-wide.

We developed ReStart from existing College policies, facilitating the re-entry of students, and worked with other campus stakeholders to address issues of degree integrity, student access, and equity. By sharing 4 years of tracking data and life stories, we will follow these non-traditional learners from academic challenge toward completion of their redefined educational goals. What are the implications for advising this diverse adult population?

CLAS Restart Policy [http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/restart](http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/restart)

Eligibility:

- The following are required for any current or former CLAS student to be eligible for ReStart:
  - You must not have graduated from the UI.
  - You must not have enrolled at the University of Iowa for at least four consecutive years.
  - You must be free from any unresolved holds placed on your enrollment by the Registrar or other UI offices.
  - You cannot have previously used the ReStart option.

ReStart policies:

- The student must meet the above eligibility requirements.
- CLAS approval of the student’s application for the ReStart option is not guaranteed.
- All courses taken and credit hours earned during the ReStart sessions will remain on the student’s permanent record (official transcript), but will be marked to show that they have been removed from computations of grade point averages.
- The option applies only to academic sessions a) completed while enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and b) prior to the minimum four-year absence from the university.
- The ReStart option does not apply to individual courses, but only to entire sessions of enrollment.
- No tuition will be refunded for ReStart sessions.
- The ReStart option cannot be applied to courses taken at another institution.
- Semester hours earned in a ReStart session will not be counted toward the 120 semester hours required for graduation.
- If a CLAS General Education requirement was completed in a ReStart session, the College will consider, on a case-by-case basis, accepting that GE requirement as satisfied. The acceptance of previously completed GE requirements is not guaranteed.
- Any course in a ReStart session that previously fulfilled a requirement for the student’s major must be reviewed by the appropriate department for a decision as to whether or not the course may now be counted as fulfilling the requirement in question. The acceptance of previously completed requirements for the major is not guaranteed.
- Any second-grade-only options (SGO) used during a ReStart session will not count toward the CLAS limit of 3 SGOs.
- Courses taken during a ReStart session and repeated after the student returns to UI will not be counted as duplication or regression.
- Students may use the ReStart option only once.
- Once applied to the student’s record, the ReStart option is not reversible.

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Procedures for requesting ReStart:

Current and former CLAS students are strongly advised to contact staff in the Academic Programs and Student Development office, 120 Schaeffer Hall, to discuss the ReStart option before submitting a ReStart application. Please call 319-335-2633 to schedule an in-person or telephone appointment.

If you are not currently enrolled at the University of Iowa, you must file an application for re-entry to The University of Iowa before submitting a ReStart application. You must meet the published deadlines for admission to the UI.

If you were dismissed from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for low scholarship, you must meet with an associate director in the Academic Programs and Student Development office, 120 Schaeffer Hall, to discuss reinstatement and the ReStart option. You must meet published reinstatement deadlines.

To apply for ReStart, you must submit the ReStart application form, along with a personal statement addressing the problems you encountered in the ReStart semesters and describing your proposed path to degree completion. Please complete the form online by typing the requested information, print it, sign it, and send it along with the personal statement to: CLAS Academic Programs and Student Development, 120 Schaeffer Hall, Iowa City, IA, 52242-1409.

The ReStart option is not guaranteed. It may be granted only after careful consideration and review of your academic record by the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum.

Cross-College Policy:

The UI undergraduate colleges share the four Restart policies below; other policies may vary.
- A student requesting ReStart must apply for ReStart through the UI college in which the student was previously enrolled during the requested semester(s). Combined degree candidates must apply for ReStart to the non-CLAS college.
- The college of the student's previous enrollment will decide whether the semester(s) in question will qualify for ReStart.
- All other decisions about coursework, requirements, and credit hours are left to the college from which the student plans to graduate.
- Each college will abide by the ReStart decisions made by another college.

Prezi Link: http://bit.ly/1L7lzam
Data Link: http://tabsoft.co/1QNItVi

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