

Rationale for Proposal for Change in Academic Renewal Policy

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Identify the key Issue, novel situation, challenge, problem, etc.

- During Fall 2024 ASCCC Plenary, one of the resolutions called local/district Academic Senates to [Investigate Academic Renewal Policies](#).
- On February 25, 2025, CCCCCO sent out a 45-day notice on the proposed amendments to Title 5 surrounding Academic Renewal Policies (sections 55031–55034 and 55046)

Provide underlying rationale for addressing the issue.

- Proposed amendments to Title 5 include:
 - a) The governing board of each community college district shall adopt and publish policies and procedures on its websites and in college catalogs pertaining to the alleviation of previously recorded substandard academic work, as defined in section 55000, which is not reflective of a student's demonstrated ability. Such policies and procedures ~~shall include a clear statement of the educational principles upon which they are based, and~~ shall be referred to as academic renewal procedures include a clear statement of the educational principles upon which they are based, and clearly identify the personnel responsible for their implementation as well as the steps students must take to initiate the process. ~~When academic renewal procedures adopted by the district permit previously recorded, substandard course work to be disregarded in the computation of grade point averages, the permanent academic record shall be annotated in such a manner that all work remains legible, insuring a true and complete academic history.~~

The permanent academic record of a student benefiting from academic renewal shall reflect all course work attempted and the grades earned along with an annotation explaining the reason a particular grade is not included in the student's grade point average calculation.

- b) Policies and procedures adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall not conflict with:
 - 1) Section 55025 of this subchapter and Education Code section 76224, pertaining to the finality of grades assigned by instructors; or
 - 2) ~~Chapter Subchapter 2.5~~ (commencing with section 59020) of ~~division chapter 10~~ of this ~~part~~ division pertaining to the retention and destruction of records.
- c) The policies and procedures adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall ~~address~~ provide all of the following:
 - 1) ~~The maximum amount of coursework that may be alleviated;~~
 - 2) ~~The amount of academic work to have been completed at a satisfactory level (minimum 2.00) subsequent to the coursework to be alleviated;~~
 - 3) ~~The length of time to have elapsed since the coursework to be alleviated was recorded;~~

- ~~4) A description of any specific courses and/or categories of courses that are, for any reason, exempt from consideration under the alleviation procedures;~~
- ~~5) The procedures to be followed by students in petitioning for alleviation; and~~
- ~~6) The personnel responsible for implementing the procedures.~~
- 1) Students may request academic renewal multiple times with no unit cap.
- 2) Students must have completed a minimum of six (6) semester or nine (9) quarter units with a 2.0 grade point average (GPA), completed those units with a "Pass" grade, or completed 288 hours of noncredit coursework with a "Pass" grade, or a combination of the three aforementioned options, at any accredited institution(s) at any time after the academic term of the coursework to be disregarded.
- 3) Equivalent courses may be substituted for courses no longer offered.
- 4) Courses for which grades of "D" were recorded at the time of degree or certificate conferral shall be eligible for post-award academic renewal, provided that all of the following conditions are met:
 - A. The process does not invalidate or alter the awarded degree or certificate and shall apply solely to the recalculation of the student's grade point average.
 - B. The course(s) in which a grade of "D" was recorded was not required, at the time of degree or certificate conferral, to:
 - i. Achieve the minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average;
 - ii. Complete the minimum degree or certificate-applicable units; or
 - iii. Satisfy a general education, major, or certificate requirement. If the "D" grade was utilized to satisfy this requirement, a re-evaluation can determine if grades of "C" or better earned prior to conferral could have satisfied the applicable requirement in lieu of the course(s) with a grade of "D."
- d) Academic renewal may not be used to:
 - 1) Alleviate a course used to earn a degree or certificate, except as provided in subdivision (c)(4);
 - 2) Alleviate a passing grade of "C" or better; or
- Alleviate the non-evaluative symbols "I" and "IP."

Include any relevant background and institutional history.

- [Title 5 Language about Academic Renewal](#)
- [BP 4240 on Academic Renewal](#)
- [AP 4240 on Academic Renewal](#)
- [A&R Academic Renewal Information](#)
- [A&R Forms](#)

Anticipate opposing arguments.

Current policy and procedures are acceptable.

Articulate possible solution(s), highlighting support for the most desirable outcome.

Change BP 4240 Language to:

Previously-recorded unsatisfactory academic performance may be disregarded if it is not reflective of a student's demonstrated ability. The District Chancellor shall establish procedures that provide for academic renewal.

Students may petition for academic renewal of unsatisfactory academic performance under the following conditions:

- ~~Students must have achieved a grade point average of at least 2.0 in 12 units; and~~
- ~~At least 6 months must have elapsed since the coursework to be removed was completed.~~
- Students must have completed a minimum of six (6) semester or nine (9) quarter units with a 2.0 grade point average (GPA), completed those units with a "Pass" grade, or completed 288 hours of noncredit coursework with a "Pass" grade, or a combination of the three aforementioned options, at any accredited institution(s) at any time after the academic term of the coursework to be disregarded.
- Equivalent courses may be substituted for courses no longer offered.

The student shall initiate the request for academic renewal via written petition to the respective college's Chief Instructional Officer or designee.

Change AP 4240 Language to:

Students may petition for academic renewal of unsatisfactory academic performance under the following conditions:

- ~~Students must have achieved a grade point average of at least 2.0 in 12 units; and~~
- ~~At least 6 months must have elapsed since the coursework to be removed was completed.~~
- Students must have completed a minimum of six (6) semester or nine (9) quarter units with a 2.0 grade point average (GPA), completed those units with a "Pass" grade, or completed 288 hours of noncredit coursework with a "Pass" grade, or a combination of the three aforementioned options, at any accredited institution(s) at any time after the academic term of the coursework to be disregarded.

- Equivalent courses may be substituted for courses no longer offered.
- Exclusions include
 - Advanced Placement (AP),
 - College Level Examination Program (CLEP),
 - International Baccalaureate (IB),
 - courses in which the student earned a passing grade of “C” or better
 - courses in which the student received a non-evaluative symbol (“I” or “IP”)
 - courses used to earn a degree or certificate, except as provided below:
 - Courses for which grades of “D” were recorded at the time of degree or certificate conferral shall be eligible for post-award academic renewal, provided that all of the following conditions are met:
 - The process does not invalidate or alter the awarded degree or certificate and shall apply solely to the recalculation of the student’s grade point average.
 - The course(s) in which a grade of “D” was recorded was not required, at the time of degree or certificate conferral, to:
 - Achieve the minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average;
 - Complete the minimum degree or certificate-applicable units; OR
 - Satisfy a general education, major, or certificate requirement. If the “D” grade was utilized to satisfy this requirement, a re-evaluation can determine if grades of “C” or better earned prior to conferral could have satisfied the applicable requirement in lieu of the course(s) with a grade of “D.”

~~Up to 30 units of c~~Coursework may be eliminated from consideration in the calculation of the student’s cumulative grade point average (GPA) **with no unit maximum.**

Specific courses and/or categories of courses that are exempt from academic renewal must be described. Academic renewal actions are irreversible. When academic renewal procedures permit previously-recorded substandard coursework to be disregarded in the computation of a student's grade point average, the student's permanent academic record should contain an accurate record of all coursework to ensure a complete and accurate record of academic history.

Academic renewal procedures may not conflict with the respective college’s obligation to retain and destroy records or interfere with the instructor's obligation to determine a student's final grade.

Each college Counseling and Advising and Admissions and Records departments are responsible for implementing this procedure. Students requesting academic renewal should meet with a counselor first to file a Petition for Academic Renewal. The Counseling Faculty Member will review the student's academic record, and determine eligibility.-The student shall complete and submit the form to the Admissions and Records Office. Once the Admissions and Records Office processes the form, the transcript will be updated, and the student will be notified of such action.

Change Academic Renewal Policy Form to:

~~A maximum of 30 units of s~~Substandard academic grades (D, F, NP, and NC) taken at Bakersfield College which are not reflective of a student's present demonstrated ability may be disregarded in the computation of the Grade Point Average if all of the following conditions exist:

- ~~1. At least 6 months have elapsed since the course work to be disregarded was recorded.~~
2. At least ~~126~~ units of satisfactory course work (2.0 GPA) have been completed, ~~at any accredited institution, subsequent to~~ at any time after the academic term of the course work to be ~~alleviated~~.
- ~~3. The student petitions in writing stating the reasons for requesting academic renewal.~~
4. The student states in the petition the specific courses to be considered under the academic renewal policy.

If approved, the substandard work will be disregarded in the computation of the Grade Point Average and an annotation made on the permanent record. The permanent academic record shall remain a true and complete academic history and the course work disregarded under this policy will remain on the permanent record.

Academic renewal may not be used to raise the GPA in order to qualify for graduation with honors. Academic renewal may not be applied to courses which have been used to meet graduation, certificate, and certification requirements, or classes that have been repeated. Return completed form to the Admissions & Records Office.