SUMMARY OF ACADEMIC RENEWAL POLICY AND PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The USG Policy Review Task Force engaged in a comprehensive review of system-level policy and procedure with the aim of identifying potential enablers or barriers to college completion. One of the recommendations from the task force concerned clarifying current Academic Renewal policy and procedure. In response, an Academic Renewal Policy working group was formed to conduct an in-depth analysis of this policy area.

Academic Renewal is an option for students who, after returning to an institution following a period of absence, request to start a new grade point average. This option provides a “second chance” to students who struggled academically but would like to return and complete their degree. Unfortunately, current Academic Renewal policy and procedure is ambiguous, as its interpretation varies broadly across USG institutions, and is unnecessarily cumbersome to navigate. As a system, we are in an era in which we urge students to return to school and acknowledge that students earn credit from a variety of educational sources. Yet, current Academic Renewal policy and procedure restricts students, limits their choices, and creates an obstacle to those hoping to return to school. As a result, the Academic Renewal Policy working group has made the following policy and procedural recommendations:

Applying for Academic Renewal (AR)

- For AR eligibility, a student must be absent between three (3) years and five (5) years. The exact period of absence is to be determined by the institution.
- Students are encouraged to apply for AR as soon as possible at the time of enrollment. The institution can determine the deadline for applying but that deadline cannot be less than one calendar year after enrollment.
- Institutions must determine a process for approving and denying AR applications as well as a process for students to re-apply for AR if they have been denied.
- As a component of the application process, the institution will determine if a student has demonstrated a readiness to return and succeed.
- Institutions should determine if a student is eligible for honors at graduation based on their institutional policies regarding honors graduation.
- Institutions have the option of using AR as part of the admissions process.

Changes Reflected In:
Academic & Student Affairs Handbook 2.5.1 Academic Renewal Sections I and II

Transfer Credit, Transfer Students and Eligibility

- The working group identified two types of students who could be eligible for Academic Renewal:
  - Students being readmitted to a USG institution
    - **Must be absent from the home institution for a minimum of three (3) years and a maximum of five (5) years. The exact period of absence should be determined by the institution.**
    - Transfer credit taken during the period of absence should be granted according to USG and institutional policy and procedure.
  - **Students who are transferring to a USG institution**
    - **Only coursework taken a minimum of three (3) years and a maximum of five (5) years ago is eligible for Academic Renewal. The exact period of time should be determined by the institution.**
    - **Transfer credit taken during the period of absence should be granted according to USG and institutional policy and procedure.**

Changes Reflected In:
Board of Regents Policy Manual 3.5.3 Grade Point Average Upon Academic Renewal
Academic & Student Affairs Handbook 2.5.1 Academic Renewal Section III.

  - **If Academic Renewal is granted at one institution, it should be honored at another USG institution.**

Changes Reflected In:
Academic & Student Affairs Handbook 2.5.1 Academic Renewal Section VIII.

The full recommendation report can be found [here](#).