

Grade Forgiveness Guide

How it Works

Undergraduate students can use grade forgiveness on up to three classes during their time at Ohio State. Grade Forgiveness allows students to repeat a course for a higher grade. When Grade Forgiveness is applied to a student's record, the grade earned during the first attempt of the course is no longer factored in to the student's GPA but it will still appear on the student's transcript. In other words, the new grade replaces the old grade in the calculation of a student's GPA. Grade Forgiveness can only be applied to the second attempt of the course and it can only work if students take both attempts at Ohio State.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply grade forgiveness to a course:

- You must meet the requisites to enroll in the course again. Pay attention to the course requisites and any exclusionary clauses in the course description. This may involve enrolling and retaking the course prior to moving on to the next course in the sequence. For example, students who wish to use grade forgiveness on a math course must retake it before enrolling in the next course in the sequence. To review information on forgiving math courses, please review [these guidelines](#).
- The first attempt of the course must be graded at OSU. Course credit earned via credit by examination (EM) is not considered a first attempt. However, transfer credit (K) earned at another institution, including dual enrollment credit, is considered a first attempt. This means that students who earn K credit for a course (first attempt) and then choose to take it at Ohio State (second attempt) may not apply forgiveness.
- Once a student has completed a degree at OSU, grade forgiveness cannot be applied to any grades earned prior to graduating. This includes all grades, even failing grades and grades in courses which were not fulfilling any degree requirements. Students can use grade forgiveness on grades earned after completing the degree, although they must also still meet all eligibility requirements.
- The second attempt must be completed at OSU. Students who complete a second attempt at another institution are not eligible to apply grade forgiveness, even if they return and complete another attempt of the course at OSU.
- Students can only apply grade forgiveness to up to three (3) courses during their undergraduate career.

- Students must submit a Grade Forgiveness Rule Petition by the deadline listed on the [Important Dates and Deadlines information](#) published by the Office of the University Registrar. For full-semester courses, this deadline is the fourth Friday of the term in which the student is enrolled in the second attempt of a course. Courses with shorter-session meeting patterns have a prorated deadline listed in the date information, available at the link above.
- Students seeking to repeat a high-demand course in which they have already earned a passing grade may not receive permission to repeat it until students who need to complete their first attempt at the course have had a chance to enroll. For critical demand courses, students who enroll in a second attempt may be disenrolled to allow students who require a first attempt to enroll. Then, after these students have been enrolled, remaining seats will be made available to students intending to complete a second attempt.

Considerations

Before using grade forgiveness, keep in mind these considerations:

- It's recommended that you check with your academic advisor prior to enrolling in the second attempt of a course to ensure you are eligible to use forgiveness and meet all rule requirements and deadlines.
- If approved, the first attempt's grade and credit hours will be removed from the OSU overall GPA upon completion of the second attempt.
- Forgiveness only impacts the OSU cumulative GPA calculation. All grades remain on the student's transcript.
- Academic standing is not retroactively reviewed if a first attempt's grade is removed from the GPA calculation due to forgiveness.
- If a student withdraws from his/her second attempt, the grade forgiveness petition is canceled and forgiveness is not applied. The withdrawn attempt does not count toward the maximum of three courses for forgiveness.

How to Use Grade Forgiveness

You can request grade forgiveness after you have enrolled in your second attempt of the course. Requests can be made electronically at:

<https://registrar.osu.edu/secure/GradeForgiveness/>

Make sure to submit your request by the deadline (for full 15 week autumn and spring courses, the deadline is the 4th Friday of the semester).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Retroactive application of the Grade Forgiveness Rule (GFR):

I took a course last fall, didn't do so well, and repeated it more successfully in the spring. Can I go back and use the spring grade to forgive the fall grade?

A. The Grade Forgiveness Rule cannot be applied retroactively when you have already repeated a course.

Q. Multiple repeats of a course: I have taken a course, repeated it, and need to take it again. Can I use my third grade in the course to forgive one of the others?

A. Under the Grade Forgiveness Rule, your second attempt of the course can forgive the grade you earned during your first attempt. No other combinations are permitted.

Q. Receiving a lower grade when repeating: What if I decide to repeat a course under the rule and my grade in my second attempt of the class is lower than my grade in the first attempt?

A. If you submitted a petition to use the Grade Forgiveness Rule, the first grade will be dropped from the calculation of your GPA, and you will lose credit for the first course. If you repeat the course and fail the second attempt, the new grade will replace the original grade in your GPA. This is true even if the second grade is lower than the first. It would be wise, therefore, in repeating a course, to assess your performance as accurately as possible and to decide whether or not you should drop it before the drop deadline for the term.

Q. Dropping the repeated course before completion: What happens if I petition to repeat a course using forgiveness and drop it midway through the semester?

A. You will receive a W on your transcript (as you would for any drop after the deadline for dropping without a W), but you will remain eligible to repeat the course under the provisions of the Grade Forgiveness Rule, should you decide (and petition) to do so in the future

Q. Repeating even high grades: Were it not for the B I received in one course, I would have a perfect 4.0 GPA. Can I repeat that course, to try to regain a 4.0?

A. You could, but it's not clear why you would, and there are good reasons we might advise you against it. A GPA, after all, is not the goal of an education, and not necessarily a gauge of your ability. Repeating a course in which you performed so well the first time does not seem a good use of your time or money, and repeating courses is one main cause of extended time and cost in completing a degree. Even if you do have time to take the course over, wouldn't it be better (and look better on your transcript) to extend and challenge yourself, by taking some other course?

Remember, the B you received the first time, though disconnected from your GPA, will remain on your transcript. Finally, repeating a course under the provisions of this rule is not without risk: you could do worse the second time.

Q. When does the change happen on my record? My petition to repeat a course using the Grade Forgiveness Rule was approved, and I am now taking the course a second time, but the first grade is still on my record. Why?

A. Approved petitions will not be processed until after the tenth Friday of the semester after the deadline for dropping a course has passed.

Q: How can I tell if Grade Forgiveness has been applied to my record?

A: Log in to your BuckeyeLink account and click "Generate Advising Report". If Grade Forgiveness has been applied to your record, you will see a (#) next to the original grade you earned in the course. This means the grade is no longer being factored in to your GPA.