

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

Course Withdraw Limit Policy

TEC 51.907 Course Withdrawal Limit Provisions

Effective fall 2007, undergraduate students enrolled at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center are not permitted to drop more than six courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, per section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code.

Admission Requirements

To complete admissions requirements and to ensure compliance with the Texas Education Code, transcripts from all institutions must be received before classes begin.

Institutions Affected

Texas public community college, technical institutes/colleges, health science institutions offering undergraduate course work, and universities must comply with the legislation of TEC 51.907.

Course Withdrawal Definition

The definition of a dropped course is one in which an undergraduate student has enrolled for credit, but did not complete, under these conditions:

1. The student was able to drop the course without receiving a grade* or incurring an academic penalty;
2. The student's transcript indicates or will indicate that the student was enrolled in the course;
3. The student is not dropping the course in order to withdraw from all courses at the institution.

In determining the number of courses dropped by a student, a course, such as a laboratory or discussion course, in which a student is enrolled concurrently with a lecture course is not considered to be a course separate from the lecture course if:

- Concurrent enrollment in both courses is required, and
- In dropping the lecture course, the student would be required to drop the laboratory, discussion, or other course in which the student is concurrently enrolled.

Student Withdrawal Definition

A student is considered to have withdrawn from the institution when the student drops all courses during a semester.

Exempt Courses from Limit

The following types of courses (hours) are exempt and not subject to this policy:

1. Hours earned by the student before receiving a bachelor's degree that has been previously awarded;
2. Hours earned through examination or similar method without registering for a course;
3. Hours from remedial and developmental courses, workforce education courses, or other courses that would not generate academic credit that could be applied to a degree at the institution if the course work is within the 27-hour limit at two-year colleges and the 18-hour limit at general academic institutions;
4. Hours earned by the student at a private institution or an out-of-state institution; and
5. Hours not eligible for formula funding;
6. Courses taken by students while enrolled in high school—whether dual credit, early college credit, or for college credit alone;
7. Courses receiving grades of "W" when a student completely withdraws from all courses enrolled in a term.

Course Drop Exemptions

A student may be permitted to drop more than six courses if the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number, including but not limited to a showing of:

1. A severe illness or other debilitating condition that affects the student's ability to satisfactorily complete a course;
2. The student's responsibility for the care of a sick, injured, or needy person if the provision of care affects the student's ability to satisfactorily complete a course;
3. The death of a person who:
 - Is considered to be a member of the student's family (spouse, child, grandchild, father, mother, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, nephew, niece, first cousin, step-parent, step-child, or step-sibling);

- Is otherwise considered to have a sufficiently close relationship to the student (roommate, housemate, classmate, or other persons identified by the student and approved by the institution).
4. The active duty service as a member of the Texas National Guard or the armed forces of the United States of:
 - The student;
 - A person who is considered to be a member of the student's family;
 5. The change of the student's work schedule that is beyond the control of the student, and that affects the student's ability to satisfactorily complete the course;
 6. Other good cause as determined by Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Course Drop Exemption Process

A student must complete the "Good Cause Waiver" form and submit the completed form to the Office of the Registrar within one month of dropping a course that is to be considered exempt from the drop count limit. Once received, the Registrar, or his/her designated representative, will approve/disapprove the waiver and inform the student of the decision. The designated representative will record the grade and activate the "drop counter", if appropriate. The Office of the Registrar will maintain the documentation.

Students granted an Academic Fresh Start must adhere to this policy with respect to their enrollment beginning in fall 2007.

Student Appeal Process

Students who do not agree with the decision of the Office of the Registrar may appeal the decision to their Dean. Students must provide a written request with copies of the documentation for the Dean's review within 30 days of the decision of the Office of the Registrar. If the Dean grants the appeal, the Dean's office will notify the Registrar in writing. Upon receipt of written notification, the student's record will be updated. The decision of the Dean is final.

*For purposes of this policy, a "grade" is defined to be the indicator, usually a letter like, A, B, C, D, F, or P (for pass) assigned upon the student's completion of a course. A "grade" indicates either that the student has earned and will be awarded credit, if the student has completed the course requirements successfully; or that the student remained enrolled in the course until the completion of the term or

semester but failed to provide satisfactory performance required to be awarded credit. A “grade” under this definition does not include symbols to indicate that the course has been left incomplete, whether those symbols indicate a negotiated temporary suspension of the end-of-term deadline for completion of the course requirements commonly designated as “incomplete” status, a dropped course under the conditions designated for this section, or a withdrawal from the institution.