

Fresh Start Academic Renewal Program

Graduate School Guidance, August 2019

The Fresh Start Academic Renewal Program provides a pathway for students to request re-admission to EMU graduate studies and to have their cumulative graduate GPA adjusted in order to enable the completion of the updated graduate program.

Purpose:

There are several groups of students who can be successful in completing a graduate program at EMU; however, their cumulative graduate GPA is too low for them to be successful in completing their current program:

1. Student attended 10 years ago, began to struggle and stopped attending classes. Their cumulative GPA is a 1.2. They wish to continue graduate studies at EMU in the same program or a different program.
2. Student was interested in pursuing a degree in Accounting. They failed a course or in their first semester. They desire to seek admission in another graduate program; however, their low GPA will follow them. The likelihood of remediating the GPA in one semester is not possible, as repeating the course in the unwanted program is not a good use of their time.
3. Student accrued 20 credit hours but was dismissed due to a low GPA. They wish to continue graduate studies at EMU in the same program or a different program.

Qualifications for Fresh Start Admission:

An applicant qualifies for the *Fresh Start Program* under two conditions.

1. The student began a graduate program but, due to poor grades, desires to change programs. Under this condition, the student is not required to stop out for any period of time. The student may apply for formal admission into second graduate program.
2. The student received poor grades in their desired program. The student desires to return to the original program. Under this condition, the student may be considered for re-admission two years after the semester of last enrollment. Note: Dismissed students need to be reinstated to the University before they can apply for the Fresh Start Program.

Limitations:

An applicant can only be enrolled one time under the "Fresh Start" status; subsequent applications will be denied.

Fresh Start Procedures:

- Upon application, a prospective student may request to be admitted using the Fresh Start Academic Renewal Program. The application will be processed consistent with current procedures. Faculty in the requested academic program will either deny admission or elect to accept the applicant using the Fresh Start Program.
- The admitted student will enter with a Condition 5 status.
- To remove the Condition 5 status, **the department must submit a new program of study to Records and Registration by the end of the student's first semester.** Students may use up to six credit hours of previous coursework on the new program of study provided the course(s):
 - Are consistent with program requirements and meet program faculty approval,
 - The student earned a 3.0 (B) or better in the course,
 - Will not be older than 6 years *at the time of graduation*.
- To remove the Condition 5 status, the student's record will be reviewed at the end of the semester in which they completed at least 9 new credit hours to ensure that they have achieved a GPA of a 3.0 or better since enrollment in Fresh Start. Failure to achieve a 3.0 will lead to immediate rescinding of admission without appeal.
- Upon completion of the first 9 credit hours under the Fresh Start status, coursework prior to Fresh Start admission will be reviewed. Courses in which a Fresh Start student earned a B- or lower grade will be changed to reflect an R (Academic Renewal) grade. This grade will no longer impact the student's cumulative GPA and will no longer count as a course for which credit was earned. *Note: All courses currently on the student's EMU academic transcript will remain.*