Academic Fresh Start Policy
Draft (October 21, 2013)

Portland Community College (PCC) acknowledges that some students may not be prepared for success at the time they begin their academic career. This can leave students with an undesirable PCC academic transcript.

Academic Fresh Start is intended for the student who has been unenrolled from PCC for seven or more years to remove an entire period of poor academic performance at PCC from the credits earned and Grade Point Average (GPA) calculation.

The student must be aware of the following limitations of this policy:
1. PCC recommends that the student first attempt to repair their transcripts by repeating a course for a higher grade as appropriate through the college’s Repeat Policy.
2. Due to federal regulations, the Office of Financial Aid does not acknowledge Academic Fresh Start when calculating eligibility for student aid.
3. Transfer institutions may or may not acknowledge Academic Fresh Start. They may consider all credits and may calculate the entire student GPA for their purposes. It is at the discretion of the transfer institution to determine how they will interpret this policy.

The student seeking to apply for Academic Fresh Start policy must meet and understand the following conditions:
1. The student may only use Academic Fresh Start once and only if (s)he has not earned a certificate or degree from PCC. Once approved, the action is nonreversible.
2. The student must have a consecutive seven calendar year break (“stop out”) from PCC.
3. Upon reentry to PCC and prior to the request for Academic Fresh Start, the student must complete a minimum of twelve credits at PCC, achieving a minimum of 2.5 GPA for this group of credits.
4. All PCC grades and credits prior to the student’s break from PCC are excluded under Academic Fresh Start. Exclusion includes good grades and poor grades.
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Policy with Rationales

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The student seeking to apply for Academic Fresh Start policy must meet and understand the following conditions:
1. The student may only use Academic Fresh Start once and only if (s)he has not earned a certificate or degree from PCC. Once approved, the action is non-reversible.
   Rationale: This policy is intended to address situations where the student experienced a "false start" with her or his college career but has since remedied the circumstances that prevented a successful performance. Multiple "false starts" may indicate a continued lack of preparedness for college studies that cannot be addressed with the Fresh Start Policy. This is why the policy can only be used once. Completing a degree or certificate demonstrates that a student was already able to overcome a false start without the Academic Fresh Start Policy. The action is non-reversible as students are expected to reflect on the full ramifications of the action before applying for the fresh start.

2. The student must have a consecutive seven calendar year break ("stop out") from PCC.
   Rationale: This time span allows the student time to make the significant changes in his/her life to be successful in the second attempt. This time frame also limits the population utilizing this policy to those in true need who are not able to overcome a "false start" using repeat forgiveness. A reasonable population is necessary to make the policy manageable with Student Records. If, after a period of 2 or 3 years, the population seeking a fresh start is small, SDC may request that the time frame be shortened.

3. Upon reentry to PCC and prior to the request for Academic Fresh Start, the student must complete a minimum of twelve credits at PCC, achieving a minimum of 2.5 GPA for this group of credits.
   Rationale: Completing 12 credits prior to requesting a fresh start allows the student to demonstrate preparedness for their college career. The required Academic Fresh Start GPA is higher than the SAP 2.0 GPA to allow students to demonstrate that past circumstances have been significantly remedied and that the student will not be at risk of poor academic performance in the future. The institution must have confidence that the student has made a serious change.
4. All grades and credits prior to the student's break from PCC are excluded under Academic Fresh Start. Exclusion includes good grades and poor grades.
Rationale: This approach will provide a true fresh start. Excluding the good grades as well as the poor grades will force the student to make the decision carefully. The cause of the academic crisis, or "false start," would have impacted all classes, not only certain classes.

Internal Workgroup Notes

Process:
1. The student will complete an Academic Fresh Start request form. The form will require acknowledgement of all restrictions and conditions of acceptance of Academic Fresh Start. This would include student services such as Advising and Financial Aid. The student will not be required to meet with an advisor or other college staff.

2. The form will be submitted to the PCC Student Records. Department for processing within ___ [amount of time?]. Any time after meeting the eligibility to apply.

   SDC input (2.15) — would be best to be submitted near graduation.

3. Student Records looked at projected numbers students who may be eligible for Fresh Start. This was to address the recommendation for a 7 year stop out. As far as could be determined projections for the number of requests with a 7 year stop out may be 100 students, with an estimated 25% increase if adjusted to 6 years (n=125) or 5 years (n=150).