Georgia State University Policy

2.30.20 Taking a Course More than Twice

Policy Summary

Colleges may limit the number of times a student takes a course for a grade. Colleges may place this limit on some courses but not others and different courses may have different limits.

Full Policy Text

Effective Fall 2003, Colleges may limit the number of times a student takes a course for a grade. Colleges may place this limit on some courses but not others and different courses may have different limits. All limits must be stated in the Catalog. For purposes of this policy, a student takes a course for a grade when they receive a grade notation which figures into the GPA calculation. For example, a student who earns an A or a WF has taken the course for a grade but a student who earns an S or W has not. Students who wish to take a course more times than authorized by the college must enroll as an auditor.

At the request of the Registrar, Deans will submit a list of courses with limits.

Administration of Policy

Mandating Authority:
University Senate

Responsible Office(s):
Academic Deans and Department Chairs (see individual colleges)
Senate Committee on Admissions and Standards

Responsible Executive(s):

Policy History

Approving Body: Senate

Rationale or Purpose

Here is an example of how colleges might place this limit on some courses but not others and different courses may have different limits--Phil 2010 might be limited to 2 attempts while Phil 3000 might be limited to 4 attempts and Phil 4000 might have no limit at all.
The policy that a student takes a course for a grade when they receive a grade notation which figures into the GPA calculation implies, for example, that a student who earns an A or a WF has taken the course for a grade but a student who earns an S or W has not.

With the plateau fee structure, students are attempting to boost their GPAs by taking the same course multiple times. For example, a native speaker of Spanish might take Spanish 1001 four or fives times over the course of two or three years. In addition, some students are repeating certain gateway courses many times when their repeated failure indicates that they need to reconsider their choice of major. These problems tend to be specific to certain courses. This policy allows department, with the approval of their Dean’s Office, to limit the number of times students take these courses for a grade.

Additional Information

University Senate approved December 5, 2002 with an effective date of August 2003

Additional Helpful Resources