



Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start Policy	
Responsible Official: <b>Vice President of Student Life and Enrollment</b>	Responsible Office: <b>The Office of Undergraduate Admissions</b>

### Policy Purpose

This policy specifies the requirements for the Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start program.

### Policy Statement

The Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start program permits academic forgiveness to a Transfer Student or Readmission Student. An individual may apply for the Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start program prior to admission or readmission to ETSU as a degree-seeking student or at any time after the student has enrolled at ETSU. ETSU will honor an academic forgiveness plan offered at another institution, so long as it is clearly noted on the official transcript from the previous institution. A student may only be granted one (1) Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start.

A student approved for the Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start program will be subject to ETSU's academic retention standards. Once applied, Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start is irrevocable.

#### I. Eligibility.

To be eligible for the Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start Program, at least 48 months must have elapsed since the student last attended an institute of higher education recognized by an [Approved Agency](#). In addition to be eligible for Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start Program, the student shall not have previously received academic forgiveness according to this policy or according to a similar policy at a higher education institution to which the student attended.

#### II. Student Responsibility.

The student must follow all requirements and normal processes for admission to ETSU in accordance with either [Undergraduate Admissions Policy for Transfer Applicants](#) or [Undergraduate Admissions Policy on Readmissions](#) policy as applicable. The student will work with a representative from the Office of Undergraduate Admission to request an application for the Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start Program.

### III. Transfer Credit.

If the student attended another institution, all credits will be reviewed under [Transfer and/or Acceptance of Credit Policy](#). Upon completion of credit review if a student is eligible for Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start their transcripts will be updated pursuant to the requirements of this policy.

### IV. Transcripts.

The student's permanent academic record will include a record of all course work and will include "Granted Academic Fresh Start" and the effective date. However, courses taken and previously failed will be excluded from the calculation of the student's ETSU GPA. Grades for courses transferred from other institutions will be included in the GPA and are subject to ETSU's policy on [Transfer and/or Acceptance of Credit Policy](#) in GPA calculations.

The student's major at the time of the request will be considered the major the student has selected at the time the Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start is applied. Courses excluded from the GPA calculation will not be reviewed or reconsidered should the student change majors after Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start has been applied.

If the student's major requires a C or better at the time of Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start start is applied, then a grade of D will also be excluded from the GPA calculation and total credits earned. The GPA and total credits earned will reflect all other courses for which passing grades are earned.

The application of retained credit toward degree requirements will be determined by the requirements in effect when the Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start is conferred. Specific program requirements must also be met and Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start does not waive those requirements.

Previously satisfied learning support placement requirements will not be forfeited upon conferral of an Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start. Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start applicants who did not satisfy learning support placement requirements at the time of previous enrollment must meet the current learning support requirements at the time Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start is applied.

### IV. Financial Aid.

This policy is independent of financial aid regulations. Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start does not alter financial aid requirements and regulations; therefore, students should check with ETSU financial Aid regarding how Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start may affect their eligibility for financial aid.

## Defined Terms

*A defined term has a special meaning within the context of this policy.*

APPROVED AGENCY	The following list of agencies are approved agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC);</li><li>B. Higher Learning Commission (HLC)</li><li>C. Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE);</li><li>D. New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE);</li><li>E. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU);</li><li>F. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC); and</li><li>G. Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).</li></ul>
FRESH START APPLICANT	Individual wishing to seek academic forgiveness for previously taken coursework
READMISSION STUDENT	An individual who was previously enrolled at ETSU for undergraduate coursework.
TRANSFER STUDENT	An individual who: (1) is not an International Applicant; and (2) has attended an institute of higher education recognized by an Approved Agency after earning high school equivalent diploma, high school equivalent (HSE) diploma, GED/HiSET.
UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC FRESH START	A program that may allow ETSU undergraduate students with poor academic performance to petition to enter/reenter undergraduate study and avoid having their previous low grades adversely affect the GPA calculation.

## Policy History

### Effective Date

Initial: 3/18/2024

Revision:

## Procedure

Before applying, an individual should contact the Coordinator for Transfer Evaluation and Articulated Programs in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to discuss this policy and the application process. The procedures for the Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start application and review process are as follows:

I. Procedures for Applying for the Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start Program.

The student should submit:

- A. Completed application and all required documents by the Undergraduate Admissions Deadline including a nonrefundable application fee, if required; and
- B. Completed and signed Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start contract.

II. Procedure for Review of Application.

- A. East Tennessee State University Office of Undergraduate Admissions reviews the application and required documentation to confirm and verify eligibility.
- B. Fresh start is applied to student's previous coursework after the student is determined to meet eligibility requirements.
- C. Written notification of Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start program approval is sent to the student

## Procedure History

### Effective Date

Initial: 3/18/2024

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### Related Form(s)

### Scope and Applicability

Primary: Academics

Secondary: Students