



Southwestern Michigan College

Board Policy – Students – Grades- Gradings - Academic Forgiveness

Last Reviewed	Last Updated	Effective Date
01/27/2020	01/28/2020	

DIVISION IV – STUDENTS

IV.8 GRADES/GRADING

IV.8.2 Academic Forgiveness

Under certain circumstances, students with a prior record of poor academic performance can have previous grades forgiven from their academic record, thus making it more manageable to obtain a degree or certificate from SMC.

1. Students who previously had a GPA below 2.0, and who upon re-entering SMC after a minimum 5 year absence completed 12 credit hours at SMC with a GPA of 2.0 or better (not including performance or developmental courses) may apply to have certain courses forgiven from their academic record. Such forgiven courses must have final grades of C- or below and must have been taken at least five years ago (60 months as measured from the ending date of the most recent term to be dropped).
2. Forgiven courses will be deleted from GPA calculations. The original transcript of grades, however, will remain intact, but will include the forgiven coursework, clearly identified with an asterisk. An academically forgiven course cannot count toward degree completion.
3. Students may not invoke academic forgiveness after they have graduated. Academic forgiveness cannot be applied to pass-fail type courses or in courses in which a student was found previously to be in violation of academic integrity. Academic forgiveness can only be invoked once and cannot be reversed once invoked.
4. Students should be aware that the re-calculation of the GPA, earned hours, attempted hours, and quality points from the Academic Forgiveness process does not apply to the student's financial aid record, only to the academic record. All course attempts, whether forgiven or not, must be used in all financial aid calculations and determination for future financial aid.