

# Scholastic Standards



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## Scholastic Standards

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### ACADEMIC LOAD (AR 2.3.1)

The following guidelines are for institutional purposes. Rules regarding academic load for financial aid eligibility, veteran benefits and athletic eligibility may be defined differently.

Students carrying at least twelve (12) credit hours will be considered full-time students for the fall and spring semesters. Three-quarter-time is 9 - 11.9 credit hours. Half-time is 6 - 8.9 credit hours. Fewer than six (6) credit hours is considered less than half-time. Academic load for summer and special terms may be defined differently. Contact the Office of Admissions and Records for clarification.

Courses may vary in length, and begin and end throughout the year. A credit hour indicates the value of an academic credit. Standards for the awarding of credit hours may be time based or competency based. To obtain credit, a student must be properly registered and must pay fees for the course. The fall and spring semesters are typically sixteen (16) weeks in length. Summer sessions are typically five or eight weeks in length.

Students desiring to take more than eighteen (18) credit hours must obtain approval from the designated college official. Ordinarily, only students with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher for the preceding semester or first semester students who were in the upper quarter of their high school graduating class are permitted to carry more than eighteen (18) credit hours.

Students participating in extra-curricular or co-curricular activities or receiving financial assistance may be required to maintain a specified minimum academic load.

Students who are working, have considerable extra-curricular or co-curricular activities, or have been reinstated from academic suspension/probation should plan their academic load accordingly.

### SCHEDULE CHANGES

Students may change their schedule by following the designated procedures at their college of enrollment. It is the student's responsibility to notify the college if he/she will no longer be attending class (see withdrawal policy).

### ATTENDANCE (AR 2.3.2)

Only persons who are registered for a class at any of the Maricopa Community Colleges may attend that class.

Attendance requirements are determined by the course instructor. Students who do not meet the attendance requirement as determined by the course instructor may be withdrawn.

Students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting, or to contact the instructor regarding absence before the first scheduled class meeting may, at the option of the instructor, be withdrawn.

At the beginning of each course, each faculty member will provide students with written attendance requirements. It is the student's responsibility to consult with the instructor regarding official or unofficial absences. Absences begin to accumulate with the first scheduled class meeting.

Students bear the responsibility of notifying the Office of Admissions and Records when they discontinue studies in a course or at the college. Please refer to the Withdrawal Procedures.

#### A. Official Absences

Official absences are those which occur when students are involved in an official activity of the college (e.g., field trips, tournaments, athletic events) and present an official absence excuse form. Absences for such events shall not count against the number of absences allowed by an instructor or department. Students who must miss a class for an official reason must obtain an official absence verification card from the appropriate dean or associate dean and present it to the appropriate instructor(s) before the absence. Prior arrangements must be made with each instructor for make-up work. If prior arrangements have been made, the student will not be penalized.

Other official absences include jury duty and subpoenas. Appropriate documentation will be required. Prior arrangements must be made with each instructor for make-up work. If prior arrangements have been made, the student will not be penalized.

In the event of the death of an immediate family member, absences for periods of up to one week will not be counted against the number of absences allowed by an instructor or department. Students should contact instructor(s) as soon as possible to arrange for make-up work. Appropriate documentation will be required (for example, a copy of the obituary or funeral program). In specialized programs that require clinical rotations, this regulation may not apply.

#### B. Religious Holidays

Students shall have the right to observe major religious holidays without penalty or reprisal by any administrator, faculty member or employee of the Maricopa Community Colleges. Absences for such holidays shall not count against the number of absences allowed by an instructor or department. At least one week before the holiday, students shall submit to their instructor(s) a written statement which includes both the date of the holiday and the reason why class attendance is impossible. Prior arrangements must be made with each instructor for make-up work. If prior arrangements have been made, the student will not be penalized.

### GRADING (AR 2.3.3)

#### A. Policy

It is the policy of the Maricopa Community Colleges that a grade will be assigned at the conclusion of the course. Official grades are available on designated college web sites.

#### Grade Key

A	Excellent .....	4 grade points per credit hour
B	Above Average .....	3 grade points per credit hour
C	Average .....	2 grade points per credit hour
D	Passing .....	1 grade point per credit hour
F	Failure .....	0 grade point per credit hour
I	Incomplete .....	Not computed in grade point average
IP	Course In Progress.....	Not computed in grade point average
N	Audit .....	Not computed in grade point average
P*	Credit.....	Not computed in grade point average
W	Withdrawn, passing .....	Not computed in grade point average
Y	Withdrawn, failing (effective Fall 2000) ..	0 grade point per credit hour
Z	No Credit .....	Not computed in grade point average

\* A "P" is judged to be equivalent to a grade of C or higher.

#### B. Incomplete Grade

Students who are doing acceptable work may request an incomplete grade "I" if they are unable to complete the course requirements by the end of the term because of illness or other extenuating circumstances. If the request is approved by the instructor, he or she shall define, in a written contract, how the course will be completed. The contract will be filed with the Office of Admissions and Records.

Students must complete the requirements within the time period agreed to - maximum time allowed is seven (7) months from the last date of class in which the grade of incomplete was assigned. Students who do not complete the requirements within seven (7) months will have their grade recorded in accordance with the written contract. Students should NOT reregister for the course to complete the contract.

#### C. Repeating a Course/Improving a Grade

To improve a previously earned grade, students may repeat the course up to three times after the initial attempt to improve a grade. (A "W" or "Y" is not considered an attempt.) Students planning to enroll in a course for the third time should seek advisement prior to enrolling. All enrollments in a course will appear on the transcript and will be included in calculating the grade point average. The student may request in writing that the course(s) with the lower grade(s) be excluded during the grade point average calculation. The written request must be submitted to the Office of Admission and Records at the Maricopa Community College where the course with the lower grade was taken. Check individual courses and programs for exceptions.

**D. Credit/No Credit Courses (P/Z)**

Some courses may be taken under a credit/no credit grading system. These courses carry grades of P (credit, equivalent to a grade of C or higher) or Z (no credit) and are not computed in the student's grade point average. Credits earned with a grade of P may be counted toward graduation.

The prescribed time limits are for full semester classes. Time limits for classes which meet fewer than sixteen (16) weeks are adjusted accordingly. See "Important Deadlines for Students."

In courses with credit/no credit (P/Z) grading, the student may request standard grading (A,B,C,D,F), within fourteen (14) days including the date of the first class meeting. The instructor must immediately notify the Office of Admissions and Records.

In courses with standard grading (A, B, C, D, F), the instructor determines if the credit/no credit option is available. If the option is available, the student must obtain the permission of the instructor. The instructor must notify the Office of Admissions and Records within fourteen (14) days including the day of the first class meeting.

It is the student's responsibility to verify the transferability of credit/no credit courses. Some universities place a limitation on the number of credit/no credit courses that can be transferred.

**Advisory note:** Some institutions outside the Maricopa Community Colleges may translate the Z grade as failing.

**E. Audit Courses**

Auditors are those who enroll in a course for the sole purpose of obtaining information; they receive no credit, grades, homework, or tests. If an auditor wishes to earn credit, he or she must change from audit status to credit status within the first week. If a student wishes to audit a course for which he or she is enrolled for credit, the change must be made within the first five (5) weeks of a semester. Auditors are subject to the same attendance policies as other students. See the fee schedule for charges. Financial aid is not available for audited courses.

The prescribed time limits are for full semester classes. Time limits for classes which meet fewer than sixteen (16) weeks are adjusted accordingly. See "Important Deadlines for Students."

**F. Important Deadlines For Students**

(See chart on next page)

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR STUDENTS

Deadlines are based on calendar days and begin with the first day of class.  
Deadlines that fall on a weekend or holiday advance to the next college work day.

Class Length	Deadline for Students to Withdraw with Guaranteed Grade of W	Deadline for Students to Withdraw From a Course (Instructor Signature Required)	Deadline for Students to Request Complete Withdrawal	Deadline to Change Type of Grading (A-F to P/Z, or P/Z to A/F)	Deadline to Change from Audit Grade to Credit Grade	Deadline to Change from Credit Grade to Audit Grade
<b>One Week or less (1 to 7 days)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Class or Prior to the Last Day of Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Class or Prior to the Last Day of Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Class
<b>Two Weeks (8 to 14 days)</b>	3rd Calendar Day	6th Calendar Day	6th Calendar Day	1st Day of Class	1st Day of Class	3rd Calendar Day
<b>Three Weeks (15 to 21 Days)</b>	6th Calendar Day	12th Calendar Day	12th Calendar Day	2nd Calendar Day	1st Day of Class	5th Calendar Day
<b>Four Weeks (22 to 28 days)</b>	9th Calendar Day	17th Calendar Day	17th Calendar Day	3rd Calendar Day	2nd Calendar Day	7th Calendar Day
<b>Five Weeks (29 to 35 days)</b>	12th Calendar Day	23rd Calendar Day	23rd Calendar Day	4th Calendar Day	2nd Calendar Day	9th Calendar Day
<b>Six Weeks (36 to 42 days)</b>	14th Calendar Day	29th Calendar Day	29th Calendar Day	5th Calendar Day	3rd Calendar Day	11th Calendar Day
<b>Seven Weeks (43 to 49 days)</b>	17th Calendar Day	35th Calendar Day	35th Calendar Day	5th Calendar Day	3rd Calendar Day	12th Calendar Day
<b>Eight Weeks (50 to 56 days)</b>	20th Calendar Day	41st Calendar Day	41st Calendar Day	6th Calendar Day	3rd Calendar Day	15th Calendar Day
<b>Nine Weeks (57 to 63 days)</b>	23rd Calendar Day	46th Calendar Day	46th Calendar Day	7th Calendar Day	4th Calendar Day	17th Calendar Day
<b>Ten Weeks (64 to 70 days)</b>	26th Calendar Day	52nd Calendar Day	52nd Calendar Day	8th Calendar Day	4th Calendar Day	19th Calendar Day
<b>Eleven Weeks (71 to 77 days)</b>	29th Calendar Day	58th Calendar Day	58th Calendar Day	9th Calendar Day	5th Calendar Day	21st Calendar Day
<b>Twelve Weeks (78 to 84 days)</b>	32nd Calendar Day	63rd Calendar Day	63rd Calendar Day	10th Calendar Day	5th Calendar Day	23rd Calendar Day
<b>Thirteen Weeks (85 to 91 days)</b>	35th Calendar Day	70th Calendar Day	70th Calendar Day	10th Calendar Day	5th Calendar Day	25th Calendar Day
<b>Fourteen Weeks (92 to 98 days)</b>	38th Calendar Day	76th Calendar Day	76th Calendar Day	11th Calendar Day	6th Calendar Day	27th Calendar Day
<b>Fifteen Weeks (99 to 105 days)</b>	41st Calendar Day	82nd Calendar Day	82nd Calendar Day	12th Calendar Day	6th Calendar Day	28th Calendar Day
<b>Sixteen Weeks or more (106 or more days)</b>	End of the seventh week	Two weeks before the last class period	Two weeks before the last class period	Within 14 days including the first class period	Within first week of class	Within first five weeks

### ACADEMIC PROBATION (PROGRESS) (AR 2.3.4)

#### A. Probation

A student will be placed on academic probation under the following conditions:

1. If, after completion of twelve (12) or more credit hours, the student's cumulative grade point average is less than:

#### Credit Hours for Which Grade

Points are Computed at

Resident Maricopa Community College (A, B, C, D, F, and Y)	Minimum Grade Point Average Required
12-15	1.60
16-30	1.75
31-45	1.90
46 +	2.00

(Students should also be aware that graduation requires a cumulative minimum grade point average of 2.00).

2. If, in transferring from any accredited institution of higher education, the student's cumulative grade point average from other colleges and universities does not meet the requirements listed above.

Students on academic probation may take no more than twelve (12) credit hours per semester unless approved by the Admissions and Standards Committee.

#### B. Continued Probation

A student on academic probation who fails to raise the cumulative grade point average to the required minimum standards (see above) will be placed on continued probation and may be limited to taking six (6) credit hours.

Regulations regarding continued probation do not apply to the summer session. Credit hours earned in summer sessions will be included in the cumulative grade point average.

#### C. Admission of Suspended Students

Transfer students who do not meet the minimum grade point average listed under Scholastic Standards may be admitted on academic probation.

### INSTRUCTIONAL GRIEVANCE PROCESS (AR 2.3.5 & Appendix F)

A student who feels that he or she has been treated unfairly or unjustly by a faculty member with regard to discrimination or sexual harassment in the academic environment by a faculty member, administrator, campus visitor or other student is urged to report such conduct to the dean of student services (or designee) at each individual campus. A student may also contact the Maricopa Community Colleges EEO/AA Office to obtain the name and phone number of the college official designated to respond to sexual harassment complaints.

A student who feels that he or she has been treated unfairly or unjustly by a faculty member with regard to an academic process such as grading, testing, or assignments, has the right to appeal according to the approved procedures. The appeal process for grades expires one year from the date the grade was issued.

Steps for students to follow:

Discuss the issue with the faculty member involved. This conference should be requested by the student within fifteen (15) working days from the time the student knew or reasonably should have known about the unfair or unjust treatment.

If, within ten (10) working days of the request for the conference with the faculty member, the problem is not resolved or the faculty member has been unable to meet with the student, the student may continue the process by filing a written complaint with the department/division chairperson and appropriate administrative officer at the college/center. This written complaint must be filed within ten (10) working days following the previous deadline. The written complaint will be given to the faculty member five (5) days before any official meetings are convened.

Upon receipt of a written complaint, the department/division chair or appropriate college administrative officer will work with the parties in an attempt to resolve the conflict. The faculty member may ask that the college faculty senate president be in attendance. Every attempt will be made to maintain confidentiality during this process.

A faculty member will not be required to respond to a complaint which is not in writing and which, when appropriate, did not have specific documentation including dates, times, materials, etc. The written complaint will be made available to the faculty member.

If the grievance is not resolved at this level within ten working days, the student should forward to the dean of instruction or appropriate college/center administrative officer, a copy of the original written complaint with an explanation regarding action taken at each prior level. The dean of instruction or appropriate college/center administrative officer will meet with the student, faculty member, the college faculty senate president if requested by the faculty member, and department/division chairperson and attempt to

resolve the issues. This level will be the final step in any grievance process regarding grades.

If the grievance, other than those concerning grades, is not resolved by the dean of instruction or the appropriate college/center administrative officer, it may be forwarded in writing by the student to the college president for final resolution. The college president or designee will expedite a timely examination of the issues and will issue a final written determination in the grievance process.

### **NON-INSTRUCTIONAL COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCESS**

A student who feels that he or she has been treated unfairly or unjustly by any employee with regard to a non-instructional process such as a student or administrative services has the right to file a formal and written complaint according to the approved procedures. Steps for students to follow:

1. Discuss the issue with the employee involved. The student should request this conference within fifteen (15) working days from the time the student knew or reasonably should have known about the unfair or unjust treatment.
2. If, within ten (10) working days of the request for the conference with the employee, the problem is not resolved or the employee has been unable to meet with the student, the student may continue the process by filing a written complaint with the appropriate supervisor of the employee where authority exists to take corrective action. This written complaint must be filed within ten (10) working days following the previous deadline. The written complaint will be given to the employee five (5) working days before any official meetings are convened.
3. Upon receipt of a written complaint, the appropriate supervisor will work with the parties in an attempt to resolve the conflict. Every attempt will be made to maintain confidentiality during this process. An employee will not be required to respond to a complaint which is not in writing and which, when appropriate, does not have specific documentation including dates, times, actions, supporting documents, etc. The written complaint will be made available to the employee.
4. If the complaint is not resolved at this level within ten (10) working days, the student should forward to the or appropriate college/center dean and/or associate dean, a copy of the original written complaint with an explanation regarding action taken at each prior level. The dean and/or associate dean will meet with the student, the employee, and the relevant supervisor and attempt to resolve the issues.
5. If the associate dean and/or dean do not resolve the complaint, the student may forward it in writing to the college president for final resolution. The college president or designee will issue a final written determination in the complaint process.

### **WITHDRAWAL (AR 2.3.6)**

To withdraw from a course or courses from the college, students must follow approved procedures. The Office of Admissions and Records provides information about the withdrawal process.

The official date of withdrawal is the last date of attendance as determined by the student's withdrawal or as reported by the instructor. The official date of withdrawal determines refunds.

Never attending is not a guarantee for a refund or an excuse of the debt incurred through registration. Please see the refund policy.

The prescribed time limits are for full semester classes. Time limits for classes which meet fewer than sixteen (16) weeks are adjusted accordingly. See "Important Deadlines for Students."

### **WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES**

#### **A. Withdrawal from Specific Courses**

The prescribed time limits are for full semester classes. Time limits for classes which meet fewer than sixteen (16) weeks are adjusted accordingly. See "Important Deadlines for Students." Failure to file an official withdrawal form may result in failing grades and responsibility for course tuition and fees.

Students may be officially withdrawn from specific courses in the following ways:

1. Through the 7th week, a student may initiate an official withdrawal from any course by submitting a course withdrawal form with the required signatures to the Office of Admissions and Records in accordance with the published deadlines. A grade of W will be assigned.
2. After the 7th week, a student may initiate a withdrawal. The faculty member will sign the form and assign a grade of W or Y. The form is then to be returned to the Office of Admissions and Records. (See the college academic calendar for student deadline date.)
3. A faculty member has the option of withdrawing a student who has accumulated unofficial absences in excess of the number of times a class meets per week. Students withdrawn for excessive absences may be reinstated only with the approval of the faculty member. A grade of W will be assigned through the 7th week. After the 7th week, a grade of W or Y will be assigned. Faculty members electing to withdraw students must file the withdrawal form, including the last date of attendance, with the Office of Admissions and Records.

Failure to file an official withdrawal form may result in failing grades.

**B. Complete Withdrawal from College**

The prescribed time limits are for full semester classes. Time limits for classes which meet fewer than sixteen (16) weeks are adjusted accordingly. See "Important Deadlines for Students." Failure to withdraw officially from the college within the published deadlines may result in failing grades and responsibility for course tuition and fees.

Students electing to withdraw from the college must contact the Office of Admissions and Records no later than two weeks before the end of the last class meeting and may be required to file a written request.

A grade of W will be assigned in all courses for students who withdraw by the end of the 7th week of classes. Withdrawals completed after this time will result in a grade of W (withdrawn, passing) or Y (withdrawn, failing).

**C. Withdrawal of Financial Aid Students**

In accordance with federal regulations (CFR 668.22), a student may be required to repay federal financial aid funds if they completely withdraw or are withdrawn, or fail to earn a passing grade from all classes during a semester. Further information is available at the college Office of Student Financial Aid. This could affect a student's ability to receive Financial Aid in the future at any school.

D. The academic renewal policy may be used only once at each college and cannot be revoked once approved.

E. Students who have been granted Academic Renewal must also meet the Financial Aid Standards of Academic Progress if they wish to receive financial aid.

**HONORS PROGRAM (AR 2.3.8)**

Each of the Maricopa Community Colleges has an honors program. Interested students should contact the college honors coordinator for information about the program and available scholarships, including the Chancellor's, Foundation's, and President's Scholarships.

**PRESIDENT'S HONOR LIST**

The President's Honor List for each college consists of all students who complete twelve (12) or more credit hours in residence in courses numbered 100 or higher in a given semester with a college semester grade point average of 3.75 or higher.

**ACADEMIC RENEWAL (AR 2.3.7)**

Students who are returning after a separation of five (5) years or more from the Maricopa Community College District, may petition for academic renewal. The request must be in writing and submitted to the Office of Admissions and Records at the college where the grades were earned.

Academic renewal at one of the Maricopa Community Colleges does not guarantee that colleges outside the Maricopa Colleges will accept this action. Acceptance of academic renewal is at the discretion of the receiving institution.

- A. Prior to petitioning for academic renewal, the student must demonstrate renewed academic performance by earning a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours and a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher within Maricopa Colleges after reenrollment.
- B. Upon approval, all courses taken prior to reenrollment with a grade of "A," "B," "C," "D," "F," and "Y" will be annotated as academic renewal on the student's permanent record. All course work affected by academic renewal will not be computed in the grade point average. Courses with grades "A," "B," or "C" will have the associated credit hours counted in the total credit hours earned. Such credit will not be computed in the grade point average.
- C. All course work will remain on the student's permanent academic record, ensuring a true and accurate academic history.