Course Withdrawal Policy Update

To::
UA Academic Advisors, Student Support Personnel, and Students
Names and titles:
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Date::
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In March 2020 the Undergraduate Council (UGC) received a proposal from the University Academic Advising Council to update the policy on course withdrawals (W grades). The updated policy resets the 18-unit W grade maximum for students completing a second bachelor's degree. This policy update was reviewed and approved by the Undergraduate Council, College Academic Administrators Council, and Faculty Senate during the Spring 2020 semester. The full policy [1] can be found online.

The new policy is effective beginning with the Summer 2020 semester.

Items Affected by the Course Withdrawal Policy Update

W Grade Unit Maximum: The number of undergraduate course withdrawals (drops) cannot exceed 18 units during the student's undergraduate career; the 18-unit limit will be reset once a student completes a bachelor's degree at the University and begins a Second Bachelor's Degree (does not apply to concurrent degrees). The 18-unit maximum applies to all courses dropped with a W grade. The W grade is awarded for all withdrawals between the first and final withdrawal deadlines – from the third week through the thirteenth week of a regular semester (including those awarded for administrative drops or for approved Late Change Petitions).

Justification/Rationale

University of Arizona alumni should be allowed and encouraged to return for a second bachelor's degree, and experience the same privileges as a new transfer student, including the benefit of 18 units of W, should they need it. Resetting the 18 unit W grade maximum ensures students earning a second bachelor's degree are not penalized for having withdrawn from courses while completing a previous degree at the University of Arizona.

Questions about the course withdrawal process should be addressed to Irene Delgado, Associate Registrar, at idelgado@arizona.edu [2].
