

“FRESH START” PROGRAM NEW OPTION FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

****PLEASE READ****

The Law Center faculty has implemented a new program for first-year students whose grade point averages are 1.5 – 1.99 after the first semester or 1.8 – 1.99 after the second semester. It is called the “Fresh Start” program and it is effective immediately. The current Law Center rule on Probation, Dismissal, and Maximum Hours, subsection 2, page 54 of the 2008-10 catalog states, “A first-year student whose overall grade point average at the end of the first regular semester is equal to or greater than 1.5 and less than 2.0 is on probation.” Subsection 3, on page 55 states, “A first-year student whose overall grade point average at the end of the first two regular semesters is less than 2.0 is automatically dismissed.” Under the “Fresh Start” program a student who is on probation after the first regular semester may choose to withdraw from law school and reapply for admission to the Law Center in the fall semester immediately following his/her withdrawal. A student’s whose grade point average is 1.8 – 1.99 after the second semester can also apply to enter the “Fresh Start” program.

The “Fresh Start” program gives the first-semester student who is on probation the option of not taking the risk of raising a poor first-semester grade point average to 2.0 or greater to remain in law school. He/she can apply for the “Fresh Start” program, and reapply for admission to the Law Center the fall semester immediately following his/her withdrawal. The “Fresh Start” student who enters the program after his/her first semester must apply for readmission by May 1. Eligible students who enter the “Fresh Start” program after the second semester, that is students with a grade point average of 1.8 – 1.99, will have the same option to reenter the fall semester and must apply for readmission by a date set by the Admission Committee.

In Spring 2010 only, “a student who has completed only two regular semesters of work has the right to petition for reinstatement if the student has an overall grade point average of 1.9.” See the Law Center 2008-10 catalog, page 55, Reinstatement, subsection 1. After Spring 2010, a student whose grade point average is 1.8 – 1.99 after the second semester will no longer have the option of writing a petition requesting readmission to the Law Center with advanced standing.

Readmission to the Law Center is not guaranteed to students who select the “Fresh Start” option. When reviewing a “Fresh Start” student’s application for admission, the Admission Committee will consider circumstances that affected the student’s law school performance, whether the circumstances will not generally repeat themselves, and steps the applicant has taken to remove the obstacles that prevented satisfactory performance. A student that is readmitted under the “Fresh Start” program must enroll in an advanced two-week summer academic assistance program that will include instructions in writing, critical thinking, analysis, time management, etc. The advanced summer program will take place immediately before the regular semester and will be designed by the Office of Academic Assistance. There will be no instructional cost for the program. However, students must acquire and pay for their own housing, food, transportation, etc. After completing the summer program, the “Fresh Start”

student will be enrolled in the first-year class. First semester grades from the previous year will not count against his/her average.

A student who is readmitted under the “Fresh Start” program must earn a 2.0 grade point average or greater at the end of the first regular semester that he/she is readmitted. A student who fails to earn the required grade point average cannot be considered again for the “Fresh Start” program, and will not be considered for readmission to the Law Center.

Applications for the “Fresh Start” program must be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs no later than spring registration for students choosing the option after the first semester and immediately after grades are submitted for eligible students after the spring semester. The application letter shall explain the reasons for the student’s poor performance.

If your grades are such that you are on probation after the first semester or you must file a petition to be readmitted after the second semester, the Law Center faculty and administration ask you to consider the “Fresh Start” program. The benefits of the “Fresh Start” program are numerous. Some are listed below.

1. Student can apply immediately for readmission in the fall after being dismissed.
2. Student poor grades received in his first semester or year are not counted against his/her grade point average.
3. Student whose performance was poor because of unforeseen circumstances is given a fresh start.
4. Student with 1.8 – 1.89 grade point average after the second semester will have the opportunity to continue his/her legal education.
5. For Spring 2010 only, students with 1.9 – 1.99 grade point average will not have to rely on the petition process.
6. Student has a chance for better employment.
7. There is no lapse in enrollment for financial aid purposes.

Thank you.

“Fresh Start” Summary

First-semester grade point average = 1.5 – 1.99

Student is on probation.

Options:

1. Raise grade point average to 2.0 or greater by end of second semester.
2. Apply to the “Fresh Start” program.

Fresh Start requirements:

1. Must have grade point average of 1.5-1.99 after the first semester.
2. Submit letter of application to Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs no later than spring registration date.
3. Explain reasons for poor performance in letter of application.
4. Take steps to remove obstacles that caused poor performance.
5. Apply for readmission to the Law Center through the regular admission process (application for admission due May 1).
6. Enroll in two-week advanced academic assistance program in summer immediately preceding readmission.
7. Upon returning to law school, must earn grade point average of 2.0 or greater at the end of the first semester.

How Fresh Start Works

1. Student enrolls as a first-year student the fall semester immediately after he/she is readmitted under the “Fresh Start” program.
2. Student’s poor performance is not counted against his/her grade point average once he/she returns.

Second-semester grade point average = 1.8 – 1.99

Student is automatically dismissed. If grade point average is 1.9 – 1.99, student may petition for readmission with advanced standing; the petition rule is only applicable in Spring 2011.

Options

1. Petition for readmission with advanced standing if grade point average = or > 1.9, if not student is dismissed.
2. Apply to the “Fresh Start” program.

Fresh Start requirements for eligible students

1. Must have a grade point average of 1.8-1.99 after the first semester.
2. Other requirements are the same as first-semester option above except number 4; student must apply for admission by date set by the Admission Committee.

How Fresh Start Works

Same as first-semester option above.