

PETITION TO DROP A COURSE WITH A W AFTER THE DEADLINE

Academic Withdrawal After the Deadline (Late Term Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty)

POLICY SUMMARY

A Petition for an Academic Withdrawal After the Deadline must meet all of the following conditions:

1. The petition for an academic withdrawal after the deadline must use one of following two forms and include all required documentation and signatures listed on each form:
 - **Petition for Withdrawal from the University After the Deadline (i.e., withdrawal from all classes for the semester)**
 - **Petition to Drop a Course with a W After the Deadline (i.e., withdraw from individual classes for the semester)**
2. The student experienced an extreme personal hardship beyond the student's control that (1) happened on or after the University's posted deadline for a W and interfered with the student's class performance or (2) directly prevented the student from withdrawing before the deadline. Academic withdrawal after the deadline is not for students who simply failed to submit assignments or take exams as scheduled, chose not to attend class, and/or did not comply with published University deadlines and other guidelines. The personal statement and supporting documentation must clearly indicate how the hardship met the required criteria. For Petition to Drop a Course with a W After the Deadline, the statement should also address why the hardship impacted the one class but not all classes.
3. The petition should be initiated prior to the end of the semester in which the hardship occurred. Given that some hardships may extend beyond the semester, the University will consider a petition submitted up until—but no later than—the last day of classes of the semester immediately following. This term deadline applies whether or not the student is enrolled during that semester. (e.g., a student who experiences a hardship in fall 2017 after the posted withdrawal deadline must submit the request and documentation no later than the last day of classes of the spring 2017 term).
4. If the petition is approved, the student will receive a W grade for all approved course(s) during the term in question, except for those courses completed prior to the hardship or the last day to drop/withdraw without academic penalty (i.e. interim session, 8WI, etc.). Grades for courses already completed will remain on the student's transcript.

For more information on academic withdrawal after the deadline, see usm.edu/registrar/withdrawal-policy.

PROCEDURE

1. If the student believes he/she may qualify for an academic withdrawal after the deadline, the student should consult the Coordinator of the following office:
 - **Hattiesburg students contact the Coordinator of the Office of Student Ombudsman Services in Cook Union**
 - **Gulf Park students contact the Coordinator in the Office of the Vice Provost for the Gulf Park Campus in Hardy Hall**
2. The student prepares the petition based on guidance from the coordinator in one of the above offices and submits the completed petition to the coordinator by the term deadline.
3. After verifying completion of the petition package, the coordinator will forward the petition package to the appropriate school director.
4. At both campuses, each reviewer should forward the petition to the next level within 10 business days. The sequence for forwarding the petition is as follows:
 - a. The designated coordinator at the Hattiesburg or Gulf Park campus
 - b. The director for the course for Petition to Drop a Course with a W or the director of the student's major for Petition to Withdraw from the University
 - c. The dean of the college of the signing director
 - d. The registrar
5. The Office of the Registrar will notify the student by email of the petition's decision. Note that even when a petition is approved, it will take time to process, especially for petitions submitted toward the end of the term. As such, grade changes may not be reflected on transcripts until the following term.

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INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Read the policy and procedures for Academic Withdrawal After the Deadline. If after reading the policy you think you may qualify for an Academic Withdrawal After the Deadline and wish to initiate a petition, you should consult the coordinator in the following office:
 - Hattiesburg students contact the Office of Student Ombudsman Services in the Cook Union
 - Gulf Park students contact the Office of the Vice Provost for the Gulf Park Campus in Hardy Hall
- 2 Based on guidance and verification from the coordinator in one of the above offices, complete the petition with all required documentation. Leave the completed petition with the Coordinator, who will forward it to the appropriate next office.
- 3 The Registrar will notify you by email when your petition has been decided.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Student ID _____ Email _____

Cell Phone _____ Course Prefix, Number and Title _____

Major _____ Year _____ Major College _____

HARDSHIP

Date(s) of Hardship _____

Nature of Hardship Death of immediate family member Accident/illness/hospitalization

Other _____

DOCUMENTATION

All requested documentation must be attached to this form in order for it to be valid. Once documentation has been collected, it must be verified by the Office of Student Ombudsman Service (HBG) or the Office of the Vice Provost (GC).

- 1. Written personal statement detailing nature and circumstances of hardship and how it impacted the student's ability to withdraw before the deadline
- 2. Signed statement from each course instructor (or email from instructor's USM email account) indicating the student's progress and participation (i.e., grades, attendance, assignment submission, etc.) prior to the date of hardship. Instructors may provide their statement directly to the course school director.
- 3. Third-party evidence which supports nature and circumstances of hardship
- 4. Current unofficial USM Transcript and Degree Progress Report (DPR)
- 5. Date petition submitted _____

Verified by Student Ombudsman Services/GP Vice Provost _____ Date _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE

By signing, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the instructions on this form and I agree to comply with the procedures therein. I have provided documentation that is accurate, relevant, and complete and I understand that failure to do so voids/nullifies this request. If this request is approved, I understand that I am still responsible for any tuition/fees incurred for the semester in question. I also understand that it is my responsibility to discuss with the Financial Aid Office the impact that an academic withdrawal may have on my financial aid.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

OFFICIAL SIGNATURES

Director and/or dean may attach a statement with additional information on the student's petition if desired.

Course School Director _____ Date _____ SUPPORT DENY

Course College Dean _____ Date _____ SUPPORT DENY