

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ACADEMIC BANKRUPTCY

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

During a particular semester, students may encounter personal, emotional or financial circumstances so devastating that it becomes impossible for them to academically perform at their usual level of recorded achievement. In most cases, these students realize their situations in time to take the advisable course of action and withdraw from the University. However, if these steps are not taken, and the student's grades for the semester are decidedly below their normal record, it is possible for the student to petition for a retroactive withdrawal known as academic bankruptcy. Academic bankruptcy may be granted only once.

Two factors are considered in the review of petitions for academic bankruptcy:

a. The student's record must show a pattern of improved academic performance after the semester in question. Evidence that the student's performance was better prior to the semester in question is also helpful.

b. The problem encountered by the student must be unusual in degree and bear a logical connection to the student's poor performance. Ordinary adjustment problems encountered by new students at the University would not qualify.

Note: The problem(s) and the effects of the problem(s) on the student's work must be reasonably documented and verifiable. Supporting evidence should be submitted outlining approximate dates when problem(s) occurred.

Procedure

Students may petition for retroactive withdrawal from the University a single semester or summer term already completed while enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences. There is no limit in regard to time elapsed between the semester in question and the submission of such a petition, but a petition will not be considered if the student has received a degree following the semester in question.

Typed petitions may be submitted at any time to:

College of Arts and Sciences, 200 Clark Hall
Box 870268, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

- Include CWID, name, mailing address, city, state, zip, phone and email.
- You must be currently enrolled in order for your petition to be considered.
- Academic bankruptcy is never granted for an academic term in which the student is currently enrolled nor for the previous term.
- Petitions must be filed prior to graduation.
- No more than one petition for academic bankruptcy may be approved during the student's academic career.
- If the petition is approved, the grades for all courses taken during the academic term in question will be recorded as a "W" ("Withdrawn").
- The application for academic bankruptcy is filed in the Dean's Office of the academic division in which the student is currently enrolled. Once a student has been enrolled in an academic division for two terms, that division has the authority to grant academic bankruptcy for a term in which the student was enrolled in another academic division.

If you have any questions regarding these procedures, please call Brandi Kizziah at 205-348-8506.