

I. Overview

The purpose of this procedure is to document the procedures to be followed by a student wishing academic clemency. Under this option a student is able to remove from the calculation of his/her GPA all grades received for previous college course work. Students who receive academic clemency will forfeit the use of any college credit earned prior to the date the clemency is effective. The effective date will be the date the student re-entered college. The principle benefit to a student will be in the recalculation of the GPA. The principle cost to the student will be that none of the prior course work can be applied towards a degree or certificate.

The Academic Clemency policy is intended to assist students who may have tried college at a earlier date but were unsuccessful due to their own personal reasons. The assumption is made that when a student returns to college after a prolonged absence they do so with a different attitude and a greater likelihood of success. Academic Clemency removes the struggle associate with starting back to school with a poor GPA.

II. Practice

- 1) Students must complete the **Request for Academic Clemency** form in the Registrar's Office.
- 2) The Registrar will verify that the student meets the following criteria:
 - separation from all regionally accredited higher education course work for two calendar years
 - the successful completion of twelve semester hours of college credit at UACCB with a 2.0 or higher GPA following the two-year break in studies.

III. Clarifying Points

- 1) Students are not free to pick and choose which courses can be included in the Academic Clemency request. All courses prior to the two year break in studies must be included.
- 2) Students having more than one two year break can elect to have only the courses from prior to the first break included. For example, a student has 15 credit hours with a .75 GPA from 1990-1992 and an additional 24 credit hours with a 3.0 GPA from 1994-1995. The student may request to have academic clemency with regards to the courses taken during 1991-1992 but continue to use the courses taken during 1994-1995 towards graduation. The student can also request that both sets of courses be considered provided there is a two year lapse between the end of the last set of courses and the start of their most recent college enrollment.
- 3) Students are required to demonstrate that they are capable of successful college course work prior to being granted academic clemency. This is the reason for the requirement that a student successfully complete twelve credit hours at UACCB prior to approval of the request.

Adopted: May 28, 2010

* This procedure was previously located in the UACCB Academic Procedures Manual (AP V-2.0, Fresh Start Policy).