



TITLE: ACADEMIC RENEWAL

EFFECTIVE: September 29, 2015

LAST REVIEW: January 25, 2018

LAST REVISION: February 9, 2017

Policy No: 1.019.3

Introduction

SOWELA Technical Community College (SOWELA) is committed to offering high-quality programs based on a rigorous, coherent curriculum. SOWELA is also committed to adhering to the policies and requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS).

Policy Statement

SOWELA Technical Community College (SOWELA) recognizes that sometimes students may have an unsuccessful start in pursuing their educational goals for a variety of reasons. Later students may discover that a low Grade Point Average (GPA) is a barrier to entry into occupational fields or further academic progress. Therefore, the College has established an Academic Renewal Policy to allow students a second chance.

Purpose

The purpose of Academic Renewal is to provide students with an opportunity to restart their academic record after a break in enrollment and a demonstration of academic maturation through performance upon re-enrollment.

Renewal results in the recalculation of GPA and a reassessment of a student's academic progress. Students are eligible to use Academic Renewal once but may submit additional requests where extenuating circumstances exist. Additional requests will be considered on an individual basis by the Dean of Instruction, if academic in nature. Prior academic credit will carry forward for courses where a minimum grade of "C" was earned. Coursework where a grade of "C" was NOT earned, will be omitted from the student's GPA as part of a degree program. However, the prior record remains a part of the students overall academic record.

I. Academic Renewal Requirements

- a) A minimum of one semester must elapse between the end of the semester in which the student was last registered for credit at any postsecondary institution and the re-enrollment under Academic Renewal.
- b) The student must be matriculated into a program.

Source of Policy: Academic Affairs
Responsible: Administrator: Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

Approved by: 
Chancellor

LCTCS Policy Reference: #1.006
LCTCS Guideline Reference: N/A

Date: 2-5-18

- c) Demonstrate academic success by meeting with a counselor/Faculty Advisor at least once within the first semester of re-admissions to discuss academic progress. Successful completion of the College Success Course may be required.
- d) If the request for renewal is approved, Academic Renewal will be noted on the transcript.
- e) Courses taken prior to the one semester enrollment absence will count toward a degree or certificate and be included in the cumulative GPA if the grade earned was "C" or better.
- f) Courses taken prior to the one semester enrollment absence for which the student earned a grade lower than "C" will not count toward a degree or certificate and will not be included in the cumulative GPA.
- g) All coursework and grades remain listed on the student transcript and included in the student completion rate but excluded from the cumulative GPA.
- h) Students will be considered for Academic Renewal subject to an approved application. Academic Renewal granted at/by an institution within LCTCS shall be accepted and honored system-wide.

Students are advised that a non-LCTCS institution may choose to not accept, in transfer, Academic Renewal granted by another institution. Students are encouraged to investigate the impact of the Academic Renewal policy if they plan to transfer to another institution outside of LCTCS. All transcripts must be provided as part of the admissions process, but transfer institutions may compute the undergraduate GPA based on all hours attempted, regardless of policies or provisions granted by institutions of prior enrollment. Students are also encouraged to consider the impact Academic Renewal will have on federal and state financial aid.

II. Procedure for Academic Renewal Approval

- a) The student will obtain the Academic Renewal form from the Registrar's Office and submit the completed form in the Registrar's Office.
- b) The Registrar's Office will advise/counsel the student on the requirements for Academic Renewal
- c) The form will be reviewed and a decision will be made based upon the student meeting the requirements set forth in this policy and as stated on the Academic Renewal Form.
- d) The Registrar's Office will complete the appropriate action and notify the student of the outcome of the petition.