



Avoiding & Recovering from Setbacks and the GRO - Reading

Avoiding Setbacks

Many students have a goal to graduate within a 4-year timeframe. However, not every student will meet that 4-year graduation goal, and some students may not graduate at all. To avoid setbacks such as this, meet with your Academic Advisor every semester and make a plan for yourself to complete your degree requirements.

Unfortunately, life events may happen that can derail your academic plans or progress. Common challenges students might face often include:

- Balancing school with a demanding work schedule
- Dealing with illness or injury to yourself or those close to you
- Social commitments to extracurriculars, friends, or partners
- Family responsibilities
- Financial challenges
- Other personal life circumstances

Below are some simple steps you can take to avoid setbacks while at UArizona.

- 1) Attend class every day and turn in all assignments to the best of your abilities.**
 - a) Falling behind by missing classes or assignments is what often leads students to WITHDRAWAL in the first place.
 - 2) Enroll in appropriate courses to meet your degree requirements (Foundations, General Education, Major/s, Minor/s, Required Electives).**
 - a) Talk to your Academic Advisor every semester and review your degree requirements together.
 - b) Consult your [Advisement Report PDF](#) on your UAccess Student Center.
 - i) The Advisement Report PDF is the official record of your UArizona degree requirements.
 - ii) All students should review this document with their Academic Advisor each semester.
 - 3) Pay attention to the [UA Dates and Deadlines Calendar](#) each semester; research the specific deadlines to ADD/DROP/SWAP courses as needed.**
 - a) Deadlines pass by quickly; decide within the first few days if a course is suitable for you or not.
 - 4) Review your [Scholarship renewal](#) and/or [Arizona Assurance renewal](#) requirements.**
 - a) Students not meeting renewal requirements may submit a [Scholarship Appeal](#).
 - b) Attend a Financial Aid Workshop: <https://financialaid.arizona.edu/other-resources/events>
 - c) Contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid if you have questions about your Scholarships or Financial Aid: <https://financialaid.arizona.edu/contact>
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Recovering from Setbacks

If you do experience a setback during your UArizona career, know that you are not alone. Talk to your Academic Advisor and [explore the various UA resources](#) available to help students recover.

Most students do not expect to be troubled with any setbacks, but all students will likely face some unexpected challenges during their UA career. Below are some common academic setbacks and solutions to review.

Falling behind in a class

Determine if there is still a realistic pathway to passing.

- Calculate your grade. See “Grade check” word document in Week 8 in SBS 197A.
 - How many points are possible in the class? How many have you earned so far? How many are remaining?
- One big difference between high school and college is that you won’t get regular reports on your calculated grade.
 - It’s up to you to calculate how you are doing by viewing feedback/grades and tracking your progress. Check D2L and review all grades and feedback.
- Consult the syllabus for information on late work, extra credit, and grading policies.
- Talk to your instructor during office hours.
- Instead of focusing only on what you missed, focus instead on what remains in the course: are there enough graded points still available to earn a passing grade?

Be really honest with yourself: do you have the time and personal commitment to complete all that make-up work along with coursework that is still due?

If you have fallen behind, talked with your instructor, and there is no pathway to pass... then you should strongly consider a withdrawal. *See [Withdrawal and Complete Withdrawal - Reading](#).*

Missing the Withdrawal Deadline

The Late Change Petition, a last-ditch Hail Mary attempt to withdraw from a course.

After the Deadline to Withdraw from a course has passed, students may submit a [Late Change Petition](#) requesting permission for a late-withdrawal from a course.

- Students would likely need an extraordinary reason when submitting a Late Change Petition.
 - Why did you not withdraw by the original deadline?

- Late Change Petition requests get sent to your course instructor/s. We strongly recommend students email their instructor/s and let them know you are submitting a Late Change Petition.
- There is no guarantee a Late Change Petition will be approved.
- [UA Dates and Deadlines calendar](#) for the deadline to submit a Late Change Petition.

NO registration changes of any kind are permitted after the last day of classes (December 8th, 2021 for the Fall 2021 semester).

Refunds

Students are still responsible for paying tuition for courses, even if they withdraw from a course.

By registering for classes, students agree to pay all applicable tuition and registration fees. Students are required to pay all tuition and fees for any registered classes, unless enrollment is officially cancelled during the 100% refund period.

See the Bursar's Office website for details about Refund Policies and Deadlines:
<https://bursar.arizona.edu/refunds/options/policies>.

See the Bursar's Office Tuition and Fees Calculator at the website:
<https://tuitioncalculator.fso.arizona.edu/#/>.

Contact the Bursar Office with questions about Refunds: <https://bursar.arizona.edu/office>.

The Complete Withdrawal

The Complete Withdrawal allows students to withdraw from all courses in a term.

This might be a good option if you expect you will fail every course in a semester. You should talk to your Professors for each class and your Academic Advisor. *See [Withdrawal and Complete Withdrawal - Reading](#).*

Students, with an extenuating circumstance, who missed the deadline for a Tuition Refund, can submit a Tuition Appeal online: <https://registrar.arizona.edu/tuition-appeals>.

NO registration changes of any kind (including Complete Withdrawals) are permitted after the last day of classes for Fall 2021 semester (Wednesday, December 8th, 2021).

Falling behind a 4-year graduation plan

There are ways to try and catch up, such as taking 7.5 week, Summer, Winter, or Transfer courses.

Ideally, any withdrawal is balanced by adding another class to your academic year, so you do not fall behind in units and progress to graduation (*see Withdrawal and Complete Withdrawal - Reading*).

However, think carefully before adding an additional course and talk with your Academic Advisor. Don't add courses simply because you panicked! Remember there is a [scholarship appeal process](#).

- **7.5 week courses.**

- The University offers some courses in accelerated 7.5 week sessions.
- Sometimes, it can be appropriate to add a 7.5 week 2nd session course to replace a regular session course you withdrew from.
- Most 7.5 week courses are fully online, iCourses (*conducted entirely through D2L*).
- The 7.5 week format is highly accelerated and courses have quick deadlines to ADD/DROP/WITHDRAW (*see image below*).
- 7.5 week courses are **not** usually recommended for first-year students.

[Dates and Deadlines](#)

<https://registrar.arizona.edu/dates-and-deadlines>

Regular Session (8/23-12/08)

8/23 – First day of classes

8/30 – Last day to use add/drop/swap on UAccess student center. After the 30th, [Change of Schedule form needed with instructor permission](#)

9/5 – Last day to drop without W. Refund deadline.

10/31 – Last day to withdraw from a single class.

12/8 – Last day of class, no registration changes possible after today

Seven Week 1 (8/23/-10/13)

8/23 – First day of classes

8/26 – Last day to add Seven Week 1 classes on UAccess, [Change of Schedule form needed with instructor permission](#) now needed

8/29 – Last day to drop without a W. Refund deadline.

9/24 – Last day to withdraw from a single Seven Week 1 class

10/13 – Last day of classes, no registration changes in Seven Week 1 possible after today

Seven Week 2 (10/14- 12/8)

10/14 – First day of classes

10/17 – Last day to add Seven Week 2 classes on UAccess, [Change of Schedule form needed with instructor permission](#) now needed

10/21 – Last day to drop without a W. Refund deadline

11/18 – Last day to withdraw from a single Seven Week 2 class

12/8 - Last day of class, no registration changes possible

- **Winter course.**
 - Keep in mind that students may only take a maximum of ONE course over [Winter session](#), and there is not a separate financial aid disbursement for Winter.
 - Winter session is a very quick session and Winter courses are often fully online, iCourse format, and are highly accelerated.
- **Summer courses.**
 - Keep in mind that [Summer session](#) courses are often fully online, iCourse format, and in accelerated 3, 5, 7, 10, or 13 week formats.
 - Information about [Summer financial aid can be found here](#).
- **Transfer or Community College courses.**
 - Talk to your Academic Advisor if you plan on any transfer or community college courses.
 - Remember, for [scholarships](#) and [institutional-based aid](#), taking courses at another institution does **not** count towards renewal requirements.
 - Students **cannot** use [a GRO](#) by retaking a course outside the University of Arizona.
 - Transfer Credit Rules and Resources:
 - You need a grade of “C” or higher to transfer any course to UArizona.
 - Transfer credit may be accepted for graduation requirements, but is not factored into your UArizona GPA.
 - Not every course is transferable or accepted at UArizona, consult the:
 - AZ Transfer Guide: <http://aztransmac2.asu.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/CEG>
 - UA Transfer Credit Office: <https://transfercredit.arizona.edu/>
 - Instructions for sending transfer credit to UA: <https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/academics/sending-college-level-transcripts-ua>

Grade Replacement Opportunity (GRO)

A Grade Replacement Opportunity (GRO) is a formal attempt to retake a course and replace the first grade in your GPA with your second attempt.

There are strict rules students need to be aware of regarding the GRO policy. Consult the full [GRO Policy rules](#) online.

GRO Rules Snapshot:

- 1) Students must [file a request to use a GRO through their UAccess Student Center](#) before the [GRO deadline](#). GROs attempts are **not** automatically applied simply because a student is retaking a course.
- 2) Students must have completed **less than 60 UA units** to be eligible to use a [Grade Replacement Opportunity \(GRO\)](#).
- 3) Students can use a GRO in a maximum of 3 courses at UArizona.
- 4) Students can only GRO courses with grades of “E”, “D”, or “C”.

- a) Most students only utilize a GRO in the event of an “E” grade.
 - b) It is often less useful to GRO a “D” or “C” grade, as you earned credit for the course.
- 5) Both course attempts will appear on your transcript.
- a) However, with a GRO, the new grade will entirely replace the old grade in your GPA.
This means as far your GPA is concerned, the first attempt does not count!

Filing a Request for a GRO

(It takes less than a minute to file a request for a GRO)

- Start by registering for the class a second time in an upcoming semester.
- Starting the first day of the second attempt at your course, [you must file a request to use a GRO in the UAccess Student Center](#).
- The GRO does NOT happen automatically. If you fail to file your GRO request by the deadline, then you will **not** replace your old grade in your GPA.
 - [Consult the dates and deadlines calendar for GRO deadlines](#).

I think I might not do as well as I hoped in a course. Should I use a Grade Replacement Opportunity (GRO)?

It depends. There are many factors to consider. Start by meeting with your Academic Advisor to discuss your degree requirements and review if using a GRO is 1) possible; and 2) appropriate in your circumstances. Also, consult the [GRO Policy online](#).
