

Academic Fresh Start is a plan of academic forgiveness that allows Queensborough Community College (QCC) students who have experienced academic difficulty to make a clean start upon returning to college to earn their degree after an extended absence.

Purpose

The *Academic Fresh Start* policy is designed to assist those students who have had a minimum 4-year separation from QCC and who demonstrate a greater level of academic maturity as a result of that separation. Students who did not realize their full academic potential during their first attempt at the college experience are being given a second chance to meet their educational goals without penalty. Through *Academic Fresh Start*, failed courses will not be calculated in the new GPA computation and will not apply toward the fulfillment of any college requirements. While all courses remain part of the student's academic record and will appear on their college transcript, failed courses will be marked as 'excluded' and only passed courses will be calculated in the new *Academic Fresh Start* GPA computation.

Student Eligibility Requirements

- Must have been a student at QCC.
- Must not have attended any post-secondary institutions for a minimum of four (4) years.
- Must have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) below a 2.0 and otherwise not eligible to graduate.
- Must meet graduation feasibility after a review of earned credits and GPA recalculation.
- Must apply for readmission as a matriculating student.
- Must submit a personal statement which includes:
 1. explanation of prior performance,
 2. summary of activities since last attended,
 3. indication of career objectives and a current plan to achieve academic success.
- Must meet with an academic advisor to develop an approved academic plan.
- Must sign an *Academic Fresh Start* contract.

Terms of the *Academic Fresh Start*

1. Once the above requirements are met, the *Academic Fresh Start* may be approved. An *Academic Fresh Start* will be granted only once.
2. Eligible students will be readmitted on Academic Probation.
3. All academic coursework will remain on the academic record and appear on the academic transcript; however, courses taken and previously failed will be excluded from the calculation of the GPA. Courses with C- and D grades will also be excluded from the calculation when a grade of C or better is required in the current major.
 - Retained grades will be calculated in the *Academic Fresh Start* GPA.
 - Courses with excluded C-, D or F grades must be repeated when they are required for the student's current program of study.
 - The student is required to meet the QCC 30 credit residency requirement to graduate.
 - The application of retained credit toward degree requirements will be based on the requirements currently in effect at the time of the academic fresh start approval.
 - Previously satisfied proficiency requirements will not be forfeited.

3. Current proficiency requirements in writing and math must be met if not satisfied at the time of previous enrollment.
4. *Academic Fresh Start* will be applied to the student record after the withdrawal period has ended.
5. The academic transcript will note that an *Academic Fresh Start* was granted and the date of the *Academic Fresh Start*.

Note: Admission or readmission into certain programs of study (e.g. Nursing, Massage Therapy) is not guaranteed under this policy, regardless of the student's prior status in that program.

Minimum Criteria

1. The *Academic Fresh Start* policy allows eligible students to resume study without being penalized for past unsatisfactory scholarship and signals the initiation of a new GPA to be used for determining academic standing.
2. Formerly enrolled QCC students who have not attended any college or university for a minimum of four (4) years and would not otherwise be eligible to graduate from QCC, may be eligible for readmission under the *Academic Fresh Start* policy.
3. Students can attend full time or part time.
4. Students must fulfill all degree requirements in effect at the time of readmission.
5. Students who have been readmitted under *Academic Fresh Start* may not subsequently petition for any retroactive change to their academic records.
6. Students granted an *Academic Fresh Start* must maintain a minimum overall 2.0 GPA; those who fall below the required minimum are subject to the conditions of academic probation and dismissal that govern all students.
7. Dismissal while on *Academic Fresh Start* is final and cannot be appealed.
8. *Academic Fresh Start* students will be coded as *Academic Fresh Start* in CUNYFirst, QCC's system of record.

Note: This policy is independent of financial aid regulations. All coursework will still count in the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) calculation. Financial aid requirements at the time of application will apply; therefore, students are urged to speak with a Financial Aid representative.