

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

## COURSE REPETITION

### Permitted Repeated Courses

Santa Monica College permits students to repeat (enroll again in) courses they have already completed, but only under special circumstances authorized by California Code of Regulations Title 5. The special circumstances include:

1. Courses that were originally completed with an unsatisfactory grade of D (1.0), F (0.0), NP (No Pass; formerly NC-No Credit) and/or W (Withdrawal), EW (Excused Withdrawal), or MW (Military Withdrawal); or
2. Courses Santa Monica College has designated as repeatable; or
3. Courses in which a student received a satisfactory grade and one of the following conditions applies:
  - The original course was completed at least three (3) years prior to repeating it, and the course is required by the District as a recency prerequisite, OR another educational institution to which a student seeks to transfer requires the course to be taken more recently than the student's last enrollment in the course [note that the significant-lapse-of-time exception cannot be used if the student earned a substandard grade when last enrolled course]. The student must provide documentation if the repetition is necessary for transfer; or
  - The student's previous grade in the course was determined to be the result of extenuating circumstances (illness, accident, fire, etc.; documentation of circumstances is generally required); or
  - The student has one or more disabilities and the student's success in other classes is dependent upon additional repetition of a special class, the student needs to enroll again to be prepared for enrollment in other classes, or the student's education plan specifies a goal in which additional enrollments in the special class will help further that goal [note that the course repetition must designated as part of the student's accommodation]; or
  - Courses that are required by statute or regulation as a condition of employment AND the student is seeking to be employed for a paid or volunteer job that requires the course; or
  - Courses that address a significant change in industry or licensure standards so that repetition is necessary for the student's employment or licensure [note that appropriate documentation will be requested]; or
  - A legally mandated training or cooperative/occupational work experience requirement; or
  - The classes are variable unit open entry/open exit credit courses, where a specific portion of the course needs to be repeated as permitted by Title 5 Regulations.

In cases where a student has earned more than two substandard grades (or, in the case of Withdrawals, the first two Ws) in a single course can be disregarded when calculating a student's grade point average (GPA) or progress calculation if the course is subsequently repeated. The NEW grade earned must be an A, B, C, D, F, or P (Pass), or NP (No Pass) for this to occur. A W, EW, MW, or I cannot be used to disregard any previous grades or notations on transcripts. All of the original grades always remain in the student's permanent record, as required by Title 5, but will have a notation to indicate that the course was repeated.

For example, if a student takes English 1 for the first time and earns a D (1.0), then repeats the course and earns another D (1.0) the second time, and then, on a counselor-authorized third attempt, earns a C (2.0),

the previous two D grades will be disregarded (although the grades will still appear on the student's transcript, noted to show the course repetition), and the C (2.0) will be used to recalculate the student's GPA.

Please note that the only grades that may be recalculated for improvement of a student's GPA are the first two unsatisfactory grades that the student earns in the course, and ONLY if both attempts at taking the course were made at Santa Monica College. Even if the student receives special permission to enroll in the same course for a fourth time, the GPA recalculation is limited to the first two unsatisfactory grades earned in the course. Note that any grades earned in courses taken at other colleges or universities cannot be used to recalculate a student's GPA at SMC. Repeating a course that a student originally completed with a grade of A (4.0), B (3.0), C (2.0), or P (Pass) will have **NO effect** on the student's GPA or units completed, and is only permitted after the student files a written request and receives approval to repeat the course, and only if the student is repeating the course under one of the special circumstances listed above.

Santa Monica College has designated selected courses as being repeatable per California Code of Regulations Title 5 §55041. In some cases, courses are grouped together because they are related in content. These courses may include several levels, but also have a cumulative course repeatability of three (i.e., a total of four course completions is permitted). For example, Dance 43, 44, 45, and 46 are grouped together because they are all different levels of contemporary modern dance for the major. A student who repeats Dance 43 (two course enrollments: taking the course initially, and repeating the course), and then completes Dance 44 and Dance 45, has accumulated four enrollments in a group of courses. As a result, that student may not enroll in Dance 46, because doing so would exceed the maximum number of course repetitions that are permitted. In addition, any Dance course enrollments in which the student earned a grade of D (1.0), F (0.0), NP (No Pass; formerly NC-No Credit), and/or W (Withdrawal) or MW (Military Withdrawal) will count toward the maximum number of enrollments allowed in the course grouping.