

College of Engineering

Academic Progress Policy

It is important for engineering students to make good academic progress. Repeating courses increases the time and cost to earn a degree and can negatively impact a student's grade point average. The College of Engineering defines good academic progress as completing 66% or more of the courses for which a student is registered. Completion is defined as earning the minimum grade necessary to have the course satisfy a degree requirement. Withdrawing from course and receiving a W on the transcript is not considered completion.

The College of Engineering will implement a new Academic Progress policy effective for the Fall 2015 semester. The goals of this policy are to improve retention and progress towards graduation, increase a student's discipline and commitment when enrolling in a course, and reduce student debt.

Engineering students will be limited to three attempts of any math, science or engineering course that is required for the degree. If a student is not successful at completing a course on the third attempt, the student will not be able to continue in any engineering degree program for which that course is required.

After the first failed attempt at a course, the student will be contacted by a CUE² advisor to inquire about the failed attempt, explain the Academic Progress policy, and promote campus academic support services. Students with a cumulative grade point average less than 3.0 OR a previous semester average less than 2.5 OR an academic progress rate less than 66% will be required to meet with an academic advisor prior to registration. At this meeting, the advisor and the student will work together to develop a plan to be successful at the repeat attempt, which may include a reduction in the number of hours attempted, visits with an academic coach, utilization of tutoring services, or meeting with a major department/program faculty mentor. In some cases, the CUE² advisor may use the new Education Advisory Board (EAB) to explore a change of major with the student.

If the student fails to complete a course on the second attempt, he/she will be required to meet with a CUE² advisor (an academic hold will be placed). At this meeting, the student will submit a form that summarizes why the student did not complete the course on the second attempt and what academic support and/or mentoring services the student used during the second attempt. The student and the advisor will explore other major options and how the students might transfer to a different program. If the student decides to attempt the course for a third time, the student and the advisor will develop a new plan for successful completion. This plan will include a list of student actions for which the advisor will oversee. In some cases, the student may be required to meet with a faculty mentor. Also at this meeting, the student and the advisor will review the Academic Progress policy to ensure the student understands the policy (a signed statement will be added to the student's CUE² file).

If a student fails to complete the course on the third attempt, the student will be notified that he/she will not be allowed to continue in his/her current degree program. This notification will be by email to their UAH address and regular mail to their permanent address. The student will be asked to meet with a CUE² advisor to discuss the student's options which could include a different engineering major or a major from a different UAH college.

Students will be able to petition for special considerations to extend the Academic Progress Policy based on unusual and documented circumstances. A committee consisting of faculty from each program will review these petitions for approval. The Academic Progress Policy applies to all students effective Fall 2015.

For students who have already attempted one or more math, science, and engineering courses required for their degree, prior to , those attempts will not count with regards to this policy. The attempt count with regards to this policy begins with attempts starting the Fall 2015 semester. For example, a student has taken MA 172 – Calculus B and earned a grade of “D” in both attempts and plans a third attempt for Fall 2015. For the purposes of this policy, the first of the three attempts would be the Fall 2015 attempt.