Rationale for Revisions:
Santa Monica College’s policy on academic and progress renewal is very restrictive in contrast to most California community colleges. As transfer admission to UCs and CSUs continues to be more competitive, SMC students who performed poorly early in their academic career have a more difficult time gaining admission to the university because every substandard grade earned is used to calculate a transferable GPA. Many of these students go on to repeat a course with a substandard grade at another institution for any number of reasons. Given our current policy, these students are unable to petition for academic or progress renewal because the course was repeated elsewhere. However, Title 5 does not prohibit community colleges to academic/progress renew a course because it was subsequently repeated elsewhere. It should be noted that both UCs and CSUs will recognize academic/progress renewal transcript notations so long as the community college approves them. What this means is that a qualifying substandard grade will be disregarded in the calculation of the transferable GPA and our students will be able to compete on an even ground with other students who attend colleges with academic/progress renewal policies similar to the one we advance in the revisions below.

AR 4331 Academic Renewal

Academic Renewal is a process intended to facilitate degree and certificate completion and/or removal from academic probation. The student must meet with a counselor and complete an academic renewal petition. A maximum of 30 semester units, including up to two substandard grades in the same course may be disregarded under this policy. Final approval of the petition will be granted by the Admissions and Records Office.

To qualify for academic renewal, the student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student’s educational objectives have changed such that repetition of the coursework at SMC is no longer appropriate.

2. The student has not repeated the coursework at SMC or any other institution.

3. Coursework to be disregarded is limited to ‘D’ and ‘F’ grades of non-repeated SMC coursework.

4. The student must have completed a minimum of 36 semester units of 2.0 GPA or a minimum of 24 semester units of 2.5 GPA or a minimum of 15 semester units of 3.0 GPA at an accredited college subsequent to the coursework to be disregarded. Units must be consecutive and must have begun anytime after the coursework to be disregarded.

5. There must be a lapse of at least two years since completion of the most recent coursework to be disregarded.

All coursework will remain legible on the student's permanent record ensuring a true and complete record. The student’s permanent record shall be annotated so that it is readily evident to all users of the record that any course disregarded may not satisfy certificate, degree, or general education course requirements.

Reference: Title 5, Section 55765; Education Code Section 76224

Reviewed and/or Updated: 12/09/03, 7/22/08
Revised: October 21, 2014
Progress Renewal is a process intended to facilitate degree and certificate completion and/or removal from progress probation. The student must meet with a counselor and complete a progress renewal petition. All coursework will remain legible on the student's permanent record ensuring a true and complete record. A maximum of 30 semester units, including up to two Withdrawal ("W"), or No Pass ("NP"), or No Credit ("NC"), or any combination of two of these notations/grades in the same course may be disregarded under this policy. Final approval of the petition will be granted by the Admissions and Records Office.

To qualify for progress renewal, the student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student’s educational objectives have changed such that repetition of the coursework at SMC is no longer appropriate.

2. The student has not repeated the coursework at SMC or any other institution.

3. Coursework to be disregarded is limited to withdrawal ("W"), and no "NC," and ("NP") notations/grades of non-repeated SMC coursework.

4. The student must have completed a minimum of 36 semester units of 2.0 GPA, or a minimum of 24 semester units of 2.5 GPA, or a minimum of 15 semester units of 3.0 GPA at an accredited college subsequent to the coursework to be disregarded. Units must be consecutive and must have begun any time after the coursework to be disregarded. Any withdrawal ("W"), incomplete ("I"), or no Credit ("NC"), or No Pass ("NP") notation/grades received during this time-frame will void the petition.

5. There must be a lapse of at least two years since completion of the most recent coursework to be disregarded.

Reviewed and/or Updated: 12/09/03; 07/22/08
Revised: October 21, 2014