

To: Professor Jennifer Bird-Pollan,
Senate Council Chair

From: Ruth E Beattie,
Associate Dean for Advising,
College of Arts and Sciences

Date: March 15, 2020

Re: Proposed Changes to Senate Rule 5.3.1.1 Repeat Option

An Ad-Hoc Committee comprising of some members of the Council of Associate Deans for Undergraduate Education, Academic Advisors, and representatives from the Registrar's Office, the Senate Council, and Student and Academic Life proposes the following revisions to Senate Rule 5.3.1.1.

The proposed changes were approved by the Council of Associate Deans for Undergraduate Education on December 11, 2019, and were reviewed (and no objections raised) by the Provost's Committee on Advising on January 9, 2020.

Reason for Revisions

The Senate Rule revisions arose out of concerns regarding a loophole in how duplicate credit is applied to a student's GPA.

Example:

Situation 1

If a student earns a grade of E (failing grade) on the first attempt in a course and a C in the second attempt then both the E and C grades are computed into the student's GPA if the student doesn't exercise a repeat option or has exhausted all repeat options.

If a student earns a grade of D (passing grade) on the first attempt in a course and a C on the second attempt then only the D is computed into a student's GPA if the student doesn't exercise a repeat option or has exhausted all repeat options.

It is more beneficial for the student to FAIL the course on that first attempt than to earn a grade of D.

Situation 2

If a student takes a course for the third time and earns E, D and then C. A repeat option can be used to remove the E (first attempt) from the GPA calculation. The current repeat option rule does not allow for exercising a repeat option on the second attempt at a course. The D grade is used in the computation of the GPA.

Process

The ad-hoc committee reviewed the repeat option practices of UK's benchmarks.

These fell into two categories –

- 1) Practices similar to UK's – 3 repeat options available. Some universities had tighter requirements than UK's (can only be used on the first 3 repeated course and student must have earned a grade of less than a C on the first attempt). The committee does not recommend changing the number of repeat options or adding additional restrictions.
- 2) All grades earned were calculated into the determination of the GPA. The committee does not recommend this, as it would negatively impact more students than it helps.

The proposed Senate Rule changes do not fully address the loophole detailed above but it does provide students with more repeat option flexibility when a course is taken for a third or fourth time.

Recommendations:

1. **Provide more flexibility for students by permitting them to exercise a second or third repeat option in the same course on the third or fourth attempt at that course.**
2. **Remove the requirement that students must be enrolled at UK in order to exercise a repeat option.** It is becoming more common for a student to delay graduation beyond their last semester at UK. Students may be waiting on study abroad transcripts, transfer coursework from other institutions, or are resolving an incomplete grade. To require a student to register for a class just to file a repeat option puts an unnecessary financial burden on students. Students will still be required to submit the repeat option request before graduation.
3. **Permit Colleges to file a repeat options(s) on behalf of a student if repeat option(s) remain.** Over 8000 duplicate credit notations were placed on student transcripts in the past five years. All but 142 of these notations could have been removed had the student exercised their remaining repeat options.
4. **Permit students to use unused repeat options on an additional degree, minor or certificate.** Currently unused repeat options can only be used by non-degree seeking students. This removes the contradiction with paragraph two of the rule, which states, "no matter how many degrees or programs are attempted".

Revised Draft 3/1/2021 based on SREC feedback

Senate Rule 5.3.1.1 Repeat Option [US: 11/14/83; US: 4/13/87; US: 11/14/88; US: 4/23/90; US: 9/20/93 US: 4/11/94; US: 12/11/95; US: 2/9/98]

A student shall have the option to repeat ~~once~~ as many as three **different** completed courses (including special exams as provided in SR 5.2.1.2) with only the grade, credit hours and quality points for the **second final** completion used in computing the student's academic standing and credit for graduation.

The limit of three repeat options holds for a student's entire undergraduate career (including when academic bankruptcy is exercised as per SR 5.3.1.5), no matter how many degrees or programs are attempted. A student may not use the repeat option when retaking a course on a Pass/fail basis if the course was originally taken for a letter grade. A student MAY use a repeat option when repeating a course for a letter grade if the course was originally taken pass/fail.

A student exercising the repeat option must consult the student's advisor and must notify the Office of the Registrar. A student may exercise the repeat option at any time prior to graduation **and must be enrolled at UK.** [US: 4/11/94; US: 11/12/2007]

If a student officially withdraws from the second attempt, then the grade, credit hours and quality points for the first completion shall constitute the grade in that course for official purposes. Permission to attempt again the same course may only **be** granted by the Instructor of Record and the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled (see Section 4.3.3). [US: 4/11/94]

~~The repeat option may be exercised only the second time a student takes a course for a letter grade, not a subsequent time (excluding audits). [US: 2/14/94]~~ **A student shall have the option to replace as many as three times the letter grade, earned credit hours, and quality points in a course from an earlier attempt with the letter grade, earned credit hours, and quality points from the next immediately subsequent attempt when computing the student's academic standing and credit for graduation. Each grade replacement counts as one of the three permitted repeat options.**

The repeat option shall not be exercised for any course in which the grade of XE or XF was received.

- * The Senate Rules do not prohibit a student from using a cheating grade of E or XE in a repeat option exercise to apply in place of a regular E that was conferred the first time the course was taken. [SREC: 1/16/2006]
- * Any course taken by an undergraduate student prior to an awarded degree cannot be changed by the repeat option process after the award of the degree; however, that student may in a subsequent nondegree status use the repeat option on a course that was taken after the prior degree was awarded. [SREC: 10/1/2012]
- * The repeat option does not allow for the original grade(s) of a repeated course to be removed from the transcript, but rather only allows for removal of the original grade(s) from the calculation of the GPA. [SREC: 12/22/2016.]