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Student Withdrawal Policy and Procedures

I. Philosophy and Scope

Frederick Community College (“FCC” or the “College”) is committed to enhancing student persistence, success, and completion. The College recognizes that circumstances may arise whereby a student feels it is in his/her best interest to withdraw from a credit course. Students should consult with their instructor, an academic advisor, or a counselor prior to making a decision to withdraw. Students who wish to drop a continuing education course should follow the [Tuition and Fees Policy and Procedures](#).

There may be circumstances where the College determines that it is in the best interest of a student or the College community to initiate an administrative withdrawal of a student from a credit or continuing education course.

II. Definitions for the Purpose of this Policy and Procedures

- A. **“Add/Drop period”** refers to the time period designated as the 100% refund period. Drops within this period will be refunded at 100% and will not appear on the student’s transcript. This enrollment will not impact a student’s academic standing, but may impact financial aid.
- B. **“Withdrawal”** refers to a student-initiated action to withdraw from a credit course after the Add/Drop period, but within the Withdrawal Period; the student will remain on the roster with inactive status, having no obligation to complete any further coursework or attend class; the student will receive a grade of “W” on his/her transcript that is not calculated into the grade point average; the course withdrawal may impact the student’s academic standing and financial aid.
- C. **“Withdrawal Period”** refers to the period of time that occurs after the Add/Drop period and concludes on a specific date as published in the Schedule of Classes during which students can withdraw from a credit course.
- D. **“Retroactive Withdrawal”** refers to a student-initiated request to the Admissions and Academic Policies Committee to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Period.
- E. **“Administrative Withdrawal”** refers to action taken by the College resulting in withdrawal of a student from a course or courses.
- F. **“BERT”** refers to the Behavior Evaluation and Response Team and is comprised of College officials who receive and evaluate student and employee concerns regarding student behavior that may be disruptive, self-injurious, or potentially pose a risk of harm to the health, safety, or property of any person or of the College, or otherwise be dangerous.
- G. **“College community”** refers to trustees, students, and all employees of the College as well as any independent contractors or other third parties to the extent articulated under contractual agreements.
- H. **“College Support Person”** refers to an employee of the College chosen to accompany and assist a student during an appeal hearing. A student is entitled to have a College Support Person of his/her choice. The College Support Person cannot be a fact witness or provide statements in the proceedings. The College Support Person is

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a non-participant who is present to assist a student by taking notes or providing emotional support and reassurance.

- I. **“Student Request for Reenrollment Committee”** refers to a standing committee of the College to whom students may request consideration for reenrollment after an administrative withdrawal. Membership of the Student Request for Reenrollment Committee shall include the VP for Learning Support, who will Chair the Committee, one (1) representative from Academic Affairs, one (1) representative from Learning Support, one (1) representative from College Security, and one (1) representative appointed by the Student Government Association. When needed, designees will be appointed for these positions by the chairperson.
- J. **“Direct Threat”** refers to a threat with a high probability of substantial harm to the health and safety of others.
- K. **“Formal Assessment”** refers to a comprehensive mental health evaluation or medical assessment that results in an evaluative report that is rendered by a licensed mental health or medical provider.
- L. **“Individual Assessment”** refers to an assessment that relies on current medical knowledge or on the best available objective evidence, to reasonably determine whether a student poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
- M. **“Non-punitive temporary separation”** refers to a temporary separation of a student from the College that is not a disciplinary sanction.
- N. **“Qualified Professional”** refers to an individual who is licensed to practice in the field of mental health or medicine.
- O. **“Secured College tracking system”** refers to the official College system used to record and track outcomes pertaining to individual and or formal assessments. The Associate Vice President/Dean of Students is responsible for the oversight and management of records and tracking of assessment.
- P. **“Workdays”** refers to Monday through Friday and does not include weekends, holidays, scheduled breaks, or other days the College is closed.

III. Withdrawal

- A. Students may withdraw from a credit course(s) after the defined Add/Drop period but before the published deadline in the Schedule of Classes. Students who withdraw from a credit course(s) will receive a grade of “W.” The withdrawn credit course and the grade of “W” will appear on the student’s transcript, however, no credit or quality points will be assigned. Students must submit a completed Add/Drop form to Registration and Records or they may withdraw online via PeopleSoft.

For athletes, veterans, financial aid recipients, and international students, a “W” may have an adverse impact on their athletic eligibility, housing allowance, veterans’ benefits, financial obligation, academic progress, or visa status. For all other students, a withdrawal is an unsuccessful attempt and will be calculated as part of their completion rate. Because of the potential impact of a withdrawal, students should confer with the Counseling and Advising Office, Financial Aid Office, Veterans Center, or Director of Athletics prior to initiating a course withdrawal.

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B. Procedures for Withdrawal

1. Students may come to Registration and Records and complete an Add/Drop form to withdraw from a credit class; or, students may sign on to PeopleSoft to withdraw from a credit class.
2. Students should confirm that the process has been completed online via PeopleSoft by clicking on My Class Schedule on the drop screen.

IV. Retroactive Withdrawal

A. A student who was incapable of withdrawing from a course due to extenuating circumstances during the published withdrawal period, and has therefore received a grade of “F,” may request a retroactive withdrawal (“W”) to the Admissions and Academic Policies Committee (AAPC).

B. Procedure for Retroactive Withdrawal

1. A student must submit the Request for Retroactive Withdrawal form, available in Registration and Records and online, listing the course(s) for which a retroactive withdrawal is being requested with the last date of attendance noted and a written statement explaining the extenuating circumstances for review by AAPC. Supporting documentation is required. Forms may be mailed to Frederick Community College, Registration and Records, 7932 Opossumtown Pike, Jefferson Hall, Frederick, Maryland 21702 or submitted in person to Registration and Records.
2. AAPC meets once per month during fall and spring semesters. Students requesting a retroactive withdrawal will be notified of the date that the AAPC will review their request. Students are not present for the review of the request. AAPC may request additional documentation from the student to process the request.
3. An email with the results of the AAPC’s decision will be sent to the student’s MyFCC email account.

V. Administrative Withdrawal

A. Administrative Withdrawal is used by the Associate Vice President/Dean of Students (AVP/DOS) to involuntarily withdraw a student from the College when a withdrawal is deemed to be necessary to protect the health, safety, or integrity of the learning environment.

B. Procedures for Administrative Withdrawal

1. The AVP/DOS will notify the student in writing and by telephone and/or email that an administrative withdrawal is under consideration.
2. After notification to a student of a potential administrative withdrawal, an individual assessment will be conducted by BERT, which will provide a recommendation to the AVP/DOS who will decide whether an administrative withdrawal is warranted. The assessment will be based on a reasonable judgment that relies on the best available objective evidence, to ascertain: the nature, duration and severity of the risk; the probability that the potential injury will

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actually occur; and whether reasonable modifications of the College policies, practices, or procedures will mitigate the risk.

3. In cases where BERT is unable to make an individual assessment, or the assessment is inconclusive, the BERT Chair will inform the AVP/DOS and recommend a formal assessment. The AVP/DOS will make a determination based upon the best available objective evidence, or request a formal assessment as recommended.
4. The AVP/DOS will discuss the administrative withdrawal and/or the requirement of a formal assessment with the student. If a formal assessment is required, the AVP/DOS will inform the student whether a non-punitive temporary separation from the College is required pending the outcome of the formal assessment. The student will be informed of all appeal procedures. The AVP/DOS will document the discussion and decision in a letter that will be provided to the student as well as a copy of this Policy and Procedures.
5. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for a formal assessment when notified by the AVP/DOS that it is required. The College will furnish a list of area providers to the student.
6. Following an individual assessment or formal assessment that results in the determination that a student poses a direct threat to the health and/or safety of others, the College must communicate to the student the exact circumstances, including timetables if applicable, that would cause the student to no longer be considered a direct threat, and the conditions that would allow the student to return to the College.
7. After it is determined through an individual assessment or formal assessment that a student poses a threat, the student is afforded due process (i.e., notice of the imposed action, the opportunity to present information on his or her behalf, and a right to appeal). The College may, as an alternative to administrative withdrawal, place other conditions on the student's participation (for example, participate only in online classes), as the College deems appropriate to protect the safety of others. The assessment will continue even if the student voluntarily withdraws and the outcome will be documented in the secured College tracking system.
8. In addition to the procedures set forth above, the following apply to students with disabilities:
 - a. The College will comply with all obligations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - b. When conducting an informal assessment through BERT or when requiring a formal assessment, the AVP/DOS will confer with individuals who have in-depth knowledge of, and experience in, the area of the student's disability and behavior, if applicable.

C. Appeal

1. Right to Appeal

A student for whom an administrative withdrawal has been instituted may appeal the decision. The student must submit a written request to the Vice President (VP)

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for Learning Support within five (5) workdays from the date of receipt of the written notification of the administrative withdrawal. The administrative withdrawal will remain in effect during the appeal process.

Failure to file a request within the specified time constitutes an acknowledgement that the student accepts the administrative withdrawal and waives his/her right to further appeal.

2. Appeal Procedures

Upon receipt of the student's request for an appeal of the administrative withdrawal, the VP for Learning Support will notify the student in writing of the date, time, and location of the appeal hearing. The hearing will be scheduled no later than ten (10) workdays after receipt of the written request for an appeal.

Prior to the hearing, the student will be:

- a. Provided a written statement of the reasons for the administrative withdrawal.
 - b. Allowed to examine, in advance, any written evidence or exhibits that the College plans to submit; reciprocally, the student will allow the College to examine, in advance, any written evidence or exhibits the student plans to submit.
 - c. Advised of the right to argue on his/her behalf and present evidence or the results of a formal assessment.
 - d. Advised of the right to appear alone or with a College Support Person.
3. The decision of the VP for Learning Support is final.

VI. Refund of Tuition and Fees

Students who have not received an automatic refund based on withdrawal date may be eligible for a refund of tuition and/or fees pursuant to the [Tuition and Fees Policy and Procedures](#).

VII. Request Procedures for Reenrollment

- A. Students who have been administratively withdrawn must submit a formal request for reenrollment to the Office of the VP for Learning Support. Students must present evidence that they have satisfied all conditions of reenrollment that were established at the time the administrative withdrawal was instituted. Evidence may include, but is not limited to, a formal assessment.
- B. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for a formal assessment if it is required by the VP for Learning Support. The College will furnish a list of area providers to the student.
- C. The Office of the VP for Learning Support will submit the evidence to the Student Request for Reenrollment Committee that will evaluate the evidence and render a decision.

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- D. A student will be notified in writing of the decision regarding his/her request for reenrollment by the Student Request for Reenrollment Committee.
- E. Once the Student Request for Reenrollment Committee determines that a student no longer poses a direct threat to the safety of others, the College will no longer exclude the student, or place special conditions on the student's participation in its program. Written notice of this determination will be provided to the student. In appropriate cases, the College may readmit the student subject to such restrictions as the College deems appropriate to protect the safety of others.
- F. If the Student Request for Reenrollment Committee determines that a student continues to pose a direct threat to others, the College will restrict reenrollment until the student can provide documentation that he/she is no longer a threat. Such documentation may include but not be limited to a treatment plan or periodic reports from a qualified professional. The College will not, however, condition the provision of a benefit or service upon a showing by a student that he/she has eliminated behaviors that are a manifestation of a disability, unless such behavior significantly contributed to the direct threat.
- G. If the request for reenrollment is denied, the Student Request for Reenrollment Committee may stipulate when the student can next request consideration of reenrollment to the Committee and under what conditions.