Proposal to Revise the Grade Replacement Opportunity (GRO) Policy

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Approved by UGC Curriculum and Policies Subcommittee, 3/31/2020; approved by UGC, 4/14/2020

Proposed Policy / Policy Update:

Proposal Statement

Under the current GRO policy undergraduate students are permitted to repeat up to 3 courses, or 10 units, and replace the original grade earned. This proposal requests the policy be revised to allow up to 3 courses for GRO with no restriction to units.

Furthermore, the deadline to apply for GRO should be revised to be the same deadline as the last day to withdraw with a ‘W’.

Current Policy Statements impacted with proposed revisions.

3. GRO requests for regular-dated classes in any session may be submitted online during GRO filing periods. See the exact GRO Filing Deadlines(link is external) and the GRO Information(link is external) page. Change deadlines to last day to file for a ‘W’.

7. A total of 3 courses, not to exceed a maximum of 10 semester hours, may be repeated under GRO.

Rationale:

Rationale for removing 10-unit count: Programs in Engineering, Science, Humanities, and others require a significant number of 4- and 5-unit courses in the first two years, when students are eligible to take advantage of GRO. Students are able to retain scholarships, financial aid, continue at the UA, and other factors that contribute to persistence when they are able to rehabilitate their GPA early in their academic career through the GRO policy. Arguably some of the more challenging courses are the 4- and 5- unit courses in science and the language arts. This revision will help more freshmen and sophomore students, particularly in STEM fields, more effectively take advantage of the GRO policy.

Rational for extending the filing deadline: The GRO filing deadline has historically been a problem because students often miss it. Some students assume when they register to repeat a course, that GRO will be automatic. The filing deadline window is very short, particularly when it comes to five- and seven-week courses. Extending the deadline to the last day to withdraw from a course with a ‘W’ would allow advisors more time to catch students who are planning on a GRO but missed the filing deadline. The last day to withdraw from a course with a ‘W’ deadline is a familiar one to students and should help alleviate this procedural error.

Implementation Plan:

UAaccess modification required to adjust filing deadline and remove unit count (assumed to need relatively minor development time).

Advising updates.

Proposed Effective Term:
AY 2020-2021 for all catalogs. Cannot be retroactively applied for GRO units used on or before the spring 2020 terms.