

THE SENTINEL

Retake Policy – We Really Mean it This Time!

By Chalyce Deterding (with lots of help from Jennifer McClure)

Are you aware that we have an Administrative Procedure (1-203) Course Retake that states that courses may only be retaken once? Any additional attempts require an appeal form and consultation with an academic advisor. This excludes developmental, ABEC courses, and instances where the student passed the course but needs to bring his or her grade point average up to the minimum required for graduation. Grades of W are not considered attempts in this policy. Please read the entire procedure at elgin.edu/procedures for complete details.

This has officially been the policy here at ECC for a very long time. We have had technical challenges through registration that have allowed students to register for a particular course as many times as they wanted; however, their transcript reflects all attempts and the course application to the specific degree requirements have always been enforced. After great concern from faculty and administration alike, conversations began to find a way to enforce this procedure.

Success was found! Beginning with the Summer 2015 registration that starts in April, students seeking to register for courses beyond the second attempt will be required to speak with an academic advisor to discuss what issues are affecting successful completion of the course and what is going to be different the third time around.

I tend to be pretty on top of this type of procedure because I like to ensure I am advising my students correctly, but this was news to me! I think we have probably all had students who have taken a course more than twice, whether to bring up their GPA or because they did not pass the class the first two times. Or maybe not...maybe that just happens in math!

I write this to inform all faculty of this change because it may affect how we interact with and advise our students. I tend to advise students to “stick it out, do your best to bring up your grade, and learn as much as you can so that if you have to repeat it you will have a leg up”, but I will definitely be working more closely with Academic Advising with the implementation of this procedure. We all tend to act in an advisory capacity to our students and this policy could affect your advice and their decision.

The math department will be meeting with the Academic Advisors to ensure the unique needs of our students are understood and to learn their intentions with the implementation of this procedure. I encourage your department to do the same!

...See page 3 for the official Course Retake Policy

President's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are having a great Spring semester, despite the weather. As always, the ECCFA leadership is constantly working, monitoring developments that could have an impact on our membership and to keep you informed and to protect our contract and bargaining rights.

We have concerns about the possible consequences that actions from Governor Rauner may have on labor unions in the state of Illinois. We cannot underestimate Rauner's agenda. It is clear to us he would like Illinois to become another Wisconsin. Now in power, there are things he can do, via executive order, that could end up harming union labor families. Executive orders are unilateral decisions where not all interested parties are at the table. All labor organizations must understand that we need to be vigilant, united, and in one front, to fight for our rights and to defend and protect our bargaining rights and our families from attacks like the one Governor Rauner is mounting again unionized labor.

You may be aware that the college is becoming a free smoke campus in compliance with state law. The smoke free campus policy will be in effect as we return from Spring Break. The ECCFA welcomes this compliance with the state law but has some questions and reservations about the disciplinary process established in the Smoke Free Campus Administrative Procedure. Our intent is to make sure we follow the disciplinary process as stipulated in the current bargaining agreement. We will keep you informed of any new developments.

Finally, I want to bring your attention the recent report of a confirmed measles case in an ECC student. Measles is a very contagious disease that spreads very fast among those who are susceptible to it. This is to be taken very seriously. Please make sure you ask your doctor the pertinent questions about your chances of contracting measles. You can also contact your county's Health Department with your questions.

Being dismissive about the seriousness of the measles outbreak is not wise.

Hopefully, the weather will improve soon. and we will continue to enjoy another successful semester.

Stay safe and warm.

In Unity,

Luis Martinez

ECCFA President



Course Retake Policy

Students may retake any ECC course at the regular cost of the course if one of the following conditions is met:

- 1 If the student has not completed the course with a grade of C or better and the course/grade is necessary to satisfy degree or certificate requirements (100 level or above) the course may be re-taken once.
- 2 If the student needs to bring his or her grade point average up to the minimum required for graduation the course may be re-taken once.
- 3 Developmental courses may be retaken until passed successfully. However, students using financial aid should speak with the financial aid department to understand the impact of retaking a course.
- 4 This procedure does not apply to Adult Basic Education (ABEC) courses.

Students seeking to retake a course beyond the second attempt must consult with a counselor and obtain an appeal form to allow registration beyond the second attempt.

A student who retakes any course does so with the understanding that only the higher grade will be used to compute his or her grade point average at ECC. All attempted courses will appear on the official ECC transcript along with a summary of the retake policy.

Students transferring to another college or university should know not all institutions honor ECC's course retake policy. Instead of using the higher grade to compute a student's grade point average, some schools use the average of both grades earned or they use the most recent attempt. To avoid difficulties in transferring, students are encouraged to contact the admissions office of their intended transfer institution and review its current catalog.

A student may receive financial aid for a previously passed course only once (a total of two attempts). If a student enrolls in a previously passed course for a third time, this course will not count towards the student's enrollment for financial aid purposes. A grade of "D" or higher is considered passing for financial aid purposes regardless of institutional policy or program of study. Students may receive financial aid for a course that has not been previously passed regardless of the number of attempts.

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(2014-2016)**

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**Spring 2015
Senate
Meetings**

*All meetings are
3:00-5:00 in CI20.
All ECCFA
members are invited
to attend.*

**February 25
March 11
April 1
April 15
April 29
May 13**