



## Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Jul 17, 2025 - State Board Regular Meeting 401 - Committees meet on Wednesday, July 16, 2025; FULL BOARD (See agenda) meets on Thursday, July 17, 2025 - 9 am - Noon
Category	G. ACADEMIC AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
Subject	4. ACTION ITEM: Revision to Policy 5.6.0.4: Academic Renewal
Type	Action
Recommended Action	The committee is asked to approve the proposed policy change for 5.6.0.4.
Goals	<p>4.1 SUPPORTING TODAY'S LEARNERS: Increase annual percentage of program-placed students applying for financial aid to 75% by 2030</p> <p>3.5 DELIVERING EDUCATION TO LEARNERS: Increase annual online headcount by 8,000 students by 2030</p> <p>2.4 REACHING MORE VIRGINIANS: Increase the annual number of working-age adults enrolled by 14,000 by 2030</p>

**TITLE:** Action Item: Revision to Policy 5.6.0.4: Academic Renewal

### BACKGROUND:

A college raised concerns over the criteria used for academic renewal in VCCS policy being restrictive in comparison to competitors, not in line with our student population, and asked whether the current policy was supported by data outcomes. In the March 2025 meeting, the ASAC Student Services committee discussed why these criteria were chosen and determined an update was needed to bring the VCCS into alignment with competitors as well as our mission. A workgroup was created to research and bring back a recommendation for updating the policy criteria.

The workgroup reviewed academic renewal data provided by VCCS IR as well as policies at other colleges, which were often significantly less restrictive than VCCS policy. The group considered the following points:

- Based on the data, Academic Renewal does result in strong credential completion for students using it with a 2/3 completion rate.
- How can we optimize the policy and further enhance its effectiveness?
- What does the data tell us about GPA? [2.04 pre-ARN / 3.14 post-ARN]
- What criteria would result in increased access and success for students while not compromising the academic integrity of the colleges?
- Advising best practices on student use of ARN
- Requirements under discussion: Length of separation, GPA, Credits completed

The workgroup agreed upon updated criteria. An updated policy was presented to and approved by ASAC at their June 2025 meeting. Justification for each update is included below.

### Proposed Policy Revision:

5.6.0.4 Academic Renewal Policy (SB)

Students who return to the college after a separation of ~~five (5)~~ three (3) years, or more, may petition for academic renewal. The request must be in writing and submitted to the Admissions and Records Office.

If a student is determined to be eligible for academic renewal, "D" and "F" grades earned prior to reenrollment will be deleted from the cumulative and curriculum grade point average (GPA), subject to the following conditions:

- a. Prior to petitioning for academic renewal the student must demonstrate a renewed academic interest and effort by earning at least a 2.0~~2.5~~ GPA in the first twelve (12) semester hours completed after reenrollment.
- b. All grades received at the college will be a part of the student's official transcript.
- c. Students will receive degree credit only for courses in which grades of "C" or better were earned prior to academic renewal, providing that such courses meet current curriculum requirements.
- d. Total hours for graduation will be based on all course work taken at the college after readmission, as well as former course work for which a grade of "C" or better was earned, and credits transferred from other colleges or universities.
- e. The academic renewal policy may be used only once and cannot be revoked once approved.

The **justifications** for each change (or lack of one) are as follows:

***Time Period: Changed from five to three years***

- Help increase uptake of the policy
- Increase enrollment and compete with external colleges, many of which provide shorter time windows
- Aligns with the reapplication period from other areas of policy
- Allows better opportunity to engage stop-out students at the 3-year mark when they'd need to reapply
- Falls in the range offered by a majority of competitors
- University policies with shorter criteria require the student to perform a reapplication process and other tasks in order to be readmitted to the university. By doing so, the student shows engagement and commitment. The three-year period for VCCS allows us to minimally replicate that by requiring a reapplication (see policy 6.0.0.1 Application for Readmission to the College).
- It's not short enough to allow any 'gaming of the system' by a quick reset of grades in two terms, which increases the confidence of college faculty & staff in advertising it to students.

***GPA: Changed from 2.5 to 2.0***

- 2.0 is the requirement for graduation and SAP
- Shows a "C" average or making satisfactory progress
- Matches a majority of external colleges reviewed
- The average GPA for students reenrolling pre-ARN was 2.04 with strong completion rates for those who took advantage of ARN once meeting the credit eligibility requirements

***Credits: No Change***

- The group determined no change should currently happen in this area
- Multiple credits or terms of successful enrollment shows commitment and retention from the student
- The average student using ARN has a GPA eligible for Financial Aid
- Aligns with a full-time semester worth of credits
- Reassess the credit requirement once the new policy is in effect to determine whether additional changes may be needed

**Resource Person:**

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