

Lee College Six-Drop Limit Policy

Overview

Section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code is designed to limit the number of course drops for undergraduate students at public institutions of higher education in Texas to six drops. Beginning in the fall 2007, Lee College became responsible for tracking, advising, and possibly denying students who are attempting to drop coursework. (i.e., courses dropped without good cause). This includes any course dropped at another Texas public college or university.

This policy applies to students starting college for the first time in the fall 2007 semester and thereafter (excluding any credits obtained before high school graduation). Students who have enrolled in college after high school prior to fall 2007 are exempt from the legislation. While implementation strategies were developed, Lee College exempted all drops for affected students from fall 2007 through fall 2008.

Affected students will have the opportunity and the responsibility to provide a reason for the drop. These reasons will be evaluated based and possibly excused based on the acceptable reasons as outlined in this policy. Upon the seventh unexcused drop the student will not be allowed the drop and will earn the grade of A, B, C, D, or F.

What Courses Are Not Subject To This Policy?

Courses which will not be included in this policy include the following:

- Any course dropped before its census date when no W grade appears on the student's record. (The census dates for all courses are available from the Admissions and Records Office.)
- Developmental coursework
- Courses dropped at a private or out of state institution
- Courses dropped by a student enrolled in high school (i.e., dual or concurrent enrollment)
- The dropped course is part of a complete withdrawal from the semester. In other words, if the student resigns from all courses before the end of the semester, there is no penalty

What Courses Are Subject To This Policy?

A dropped course is defined as one in which a student enrolled for credit, but did not complete, and would receive a W grade. This includes drops initiated by the student or initiated by the instructor.

What is the Student's Responsibility?

Drops for students affected by the legislation will be processed toward the six drop limit unless students specifically request exemption for each and every drop. This is required at the time of the drop or no later than the last day of class or finals for the course being dropped. Once Lee College calculates that the student has a total of six affected drops from Lee College and/or all affected transfer institutions, the student may not drop any additional courses. The instructor will be required to award a grade of A – F.

How Do Students Request an Exemption?

All drops must first be initiated with the Admissions and Records Office with the Drop/Add card. In addition, affected students may choose to complete the Six Drop Exemption form stating the reason for the drop—see good causes for dropping below.

The Registrar and/or the Director of Counseling will determine if the student will be granted the exception. Students may appeal the decision to the Dean of Student Services for Development and Success. Lee College official transcripts will note unexcused drops for affected students per the law.

What is Good Cause for Dropping?

The law provides that the student will not be penalized for the drop (i.e., will be excused from penalty) if the student shows good cause for dropping. The following reasons are considered good cause:

- The student has a severe illness or other debilitating condition that affects their ability to complete the course.
- The student has responsibility for the care of a sick, injured, or needy person if the provision of that care affects the student's ability to complete the course.
- The student experiences the death of a person who is considered to be a member of the student's family or who is otherwise considered to have a sufficiently close relationship with the student.
- The student is called to serve in active duty as a member of the Texas National Guard or the armed forces of the United States (may also apply to a close family member or one who is considered to have a sufficiently close relationship to the student).
- The student experiences a change in their work schedule that is beyond their control, and that affects their ability to satisfactorily complete the course.
- Other good cause as determined by the College for individual situations. The spring 2009 semester will mark the first term that drops will be evaluated in regard to this legislation.

Documentation of any of the reasons above may be requested.

For more information on the policy or procedures, contact the Counseling Center at 281-425-6384 or at counselor@lee.edu.