



Fresh Start Program

Fresh Start is an appeals procedure that allows students returning to SUNY NIAGARA after a prolonged absence to request academic forgiveness of prior cumulative grade point average (GPA). The policy is designed for students who have gained maturity outside of higher education and have demonstrated acceptable academic performance following their return.

The granting of Fresh Start is subject to the following conditions:

1. Students must have a complete absence of attendance from SUNY NIAGARA for a period of three (3) years or more;
2. Fresh Start is available after successful completion of the returning semester as a full-time student who has been admitted into a degree/certificate program (matriculated) at SUNY NIAGARA. Successful completion is defined as passing a minimum of 12-credit hours, earning a minimum term GPA of 2.0. Part-time matriculated students can also be eligible for the Fresh Start Program. In the case of part-time students, a student's term GPA must be a minimum of 2.0 for every term after readmission until a minimum of 12 credit hours has been reached;
3. Fresh Start affects only those courses taken PRIOR to the three (3) year absence;
4. All courses taken in the time period prior to the three (3) year break in attendance with a grade of C or better (or S grade) will be carried forward and treated in the same manner as transfer credit showing earned hours ONLY, without grade points and without calculation into GPA. The student may petition the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval to include a grade of C or better in the GPA calculation if taken prior to the break in attendance;
5. Credits from the prior enrollment period of attendance with a grade of C- or lower will no longer be counted as earned credits at SUNY NIAGARA, will NOT apply to the degree, will not calculate into GPA, and will need to be retaken if applicable to the student's degree/certificate program;
6. All original credits and grades will remain on the permanent SUNY NIAGARA transcript to reflect an accurate academic history;
7. Students may apply for Fresh Start only once during their SUNY NIAGARA career;
8. Fresh Start, once elected, may not be revoked;
9. Fresh Start may not be available in all SUNY NIAGARA programs.

Fresh Start is a policy of SUNY NIAGARA. As such, students should be aware it may not be recognized by outside institutions or for financial aid purposes. Discounting of grades may impact financial aid eligibility. Students are advised to consult with their academic advisor and financial aid prior to election of Fresh Start.

Interested students must submit the Fresh Start application to Academic Affairs no later than the last day of classes in which the student re-enrolls after the three (3) year break in attendance.

I have read and understand the program description and regulations of the SUNY NIAGARA Fresh Start program and wish to submit the attached application for the program.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Applicant's Printed Name

SS# or Student ID

April 2024

FRESH START PROGRAM APPLICATION

(PLEASE PRINT)

RETURNING WHEN: Semester Year _____
CHECK ONE:
SEMESTER: FL _____ SP _____ SU _____

NAME _____ SS# OR STUDENT ID _____

ADDRESS _____
Address City State Zip

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____

I HAVE BEEN ABSENT FROM SUNY NIAGARA THREE OR MORE YEARS. ____ YES ____ NO (IF NO, YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FRESH START)

PRIOR DATES OF ATTENDANCE (MUST BE 3 OR MORE YEARS AGO): SEMESTER _____ YEAR _____

What factors caused you to do poorly during your previous academic semesters at SUNY NIAGARA?

What do you plan to do differently to assure your academic success at SUNY NIAGARA?

What are your long-term educational/career goals?

ADMINISTRATIVE

SUNY NIAGARA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

APPROVED: _____ Date: _____

Vice President of Academic Affairs



Copies: File
Applicant
Registration & Records