

Proposed Revisions to AR 31. Academic Fresh Start Policy (Undergraduate Students)

Note: Blue bolded text indicates proposed additions and shaded strike-through text indicates proposed deletions.

Note: The below verbiage pertains only to the proposed revision; the remainder of AR 31 remains unchanged.

The student must have an absence from OSU that begins after the end of the student's last term of attendance and exceeds five years before re-admittance to a degree program at OSU. Prior to applying for Academic Fresh Start, the student must, after re-enrolling in the university, have successfully completed a minimum of 24 letter-graded units from OSU over consecutive terms, and earned a grade-point average of at least 2.5 in these terms. The student must also provide a signed letter of ~~recommendation~~ **support that provides the rationale for Academic Fresh Start** from a current OSU ~~college dean, school director, or department or program chair/head,~~ **college head advisor or associate dean**. It may be seconded by the college head advisor or a current faculty member within the discipline the student is currently engaged to complete ~~advocating on the student's behalf for Academic Fresh Start.~~

Rationale for the Proposed Revisions

- Replacing the word "recommendation" with "support" provides a more accurate representation of what the letter is. The Office of the Registrar looks for a statement indicating support for the student and their likelihood of being successful at OSU.
- The Council of Head Advisors requested that the college head advisor be added to the list of who can submit the recommendation as it is generally the college head advisor who writes the letter (with the student and their academic advisor initiating the process), irrespective of who signs it.
- The Academic Regulations Committee also proposes adding that the letter must provide the rationale for the Academic Fresh Start and dropping the others listed for who provides the letter, with the exception of the associate dean. The Office of the Registrar looks for specific quantifiable things in the letter and these are known by the head advisor. Dropping the others would reflect what is actually happening and make it more clear to students with whom they should talk about an Academic Fresh Start. Including the others implies those would be able to establish eligibility for an Academic Fresh Start and that's not truly the case.
 - There were a couple people who voiced concerns with dropping the other roles (as it would limit students' options), but having the letter come from the head advisor is the most straightforward and simplifies the process.
 - We don't expect an associate dean will write the letter but wanted there to be an alternative in the event one was needed, and the associate dean seemed the most appropriate.
 - Change from revisions sent to Faculty Senate councils/committees – listing the head advisor first followed by associate dean.
- The Academic Regulations Committee is also proposing to drop the last sentence as the second letter is not considered by the Office of the Registrar when making the determination to grant an Academic Fresh Start.

Academic Regulations (link to <https://catalog.oregonsate.edu/regulations/>)