

## PETITION FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY AFTER THE DEADLINE

### Academic Withdrawal After the Deadline (Late Term Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty)

#### POLICY SUMMARY

A Petition for an Academic Withdrawal After the Deadline must meet all of the following conditions:

1. The petition for an academic withdrawal after the deadline must use one of following two forms and include all required documentation and signatures listed on each form:
  - **Petition for Withdrawal from the University After the Deadline** (i.e., withdrawal from all classes for the semester)
  - **Petition to Drop a Course with a W After the Deadline** (i.e., withdraw from individual classes for the semester)
2. The student experienced an extreme personal hardship beyond the student's control that (1) happened on or after the University's posted deadline for a W and interfered with the student's class performance or (2) directly prevented the student from withdrawing before the deadline. Academic withdrawal after the deadline is not for students who simply failed to submit assignments or take exams as scheduled, chose not to attend class, and/or did not comply with published University deadlines and other guidelines. The personal statement and supporting documentation must clearly indicate how the hardship met the required criteria. For Petition to Drop a Course with a W After the Deadline, the statement should also address why the hardship impacted the one class but not all classes.
3. The petition should be initiated prior to the end of the semester in which the hardship occurred. Given that some hardships may extend beyond the semester, the University will consider a petition submitted up until—but no later than—the last day of classes of the semester immediately following. This term deadline applies whether or not the student is enrolled during that semester. (e.g., a student who experiences a hardship in fall 2017 after the posted withdrawal deadline must submit the request and documentation no later than the last day of classes of the spring 2017 term).
4. If the petition is approved, the student will receive a W grade for all approved course(s) during the term in question, except for those courses completed prior to the hardship or the last day to drop/withdraw without academic penalty (i.e. interim session, 8WI, etc.). Grades for courses already completed will remain on the student's transcript.

For more information on academic withdrawal after the deadline, see [usm.edu/registrar/withdrawal-policy](http://usm.edu/registrar/withdrawal-policy).

#### PROCEDURE

1. If the student believes they may qualify for an academic withdrawal after the deadline, the student should consult the Coordinator listed for their campus on the [Student Outreach and Support](#) website.
2. The student prepares the petition based on guidance from the Coordinator for their campus and submits the completed petition to the Coordinator by the term deadline.
3. After verifying completion of the petition package, the Coordinator will forward the petition package to the appropriate school department Director.
4. At both campuses, each reviewer should forward the petition to the next level within 10 business days. The sequence for forwarding the petition is as follows:
  - a. The designated Coordinator at the Hattiesburg or Gulf Park campus
  - b. The Director of the course for Petition to Drop a Course with a W or the Director of the student's major for Petition to Withdraw from the University.
  - c. The Dean of the college of the signing Director.
  - d. The Registrar
5. The Office of the Registrar will notify the student by email of the petition's decision. Note that even when a petition is approved, it will take time to process, especially for petitions submitted toward the end of the term. As such, grade changes may not be reflected on transcripts until the following term.