

WITHDRAWING FROM ONE OR MORE COURSES: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document is designed to be read in its entirety. Please do so before you make any changes to your schedule. If you have questions, we are here to answer them or connect you with someone who can.

What does it mean to withdraw from a course?

Withdrawing from a course is similar to dropping a course, but because it occurs after the drop deadline, there are more significant impacts. If you complete the withdrawal process for a course, you will not receive credit for the course and you will receive a “W” grade on your transcript, which does not impact your grade point average (GPA). Additionally, you will still be expected to pay tuition for the course. Before withdrawing, we strongly recommend reading through both this document and [this webpage](#) in detail as they discuss the possible implications for financial aid, transcript notations, on-campus housing eligibility, etc. If you are considering withdrawing from all of your courses, please review [this webpage](#) as well.

Who should consider withdrawing from a course?

While there can be a variety of reasons to withdraw from a course, we primarily recommend this option to students who are likely to fail one or more courses in their current schedule. If there is a strong likelihood that you will not pass a course, withdrawing prevents an F (calculated as a 0.0) from bringing down your GPA. Ws, however, do not factor into your GPA calculation. *Students on academic warning/probation should consult their advisor ahead of withdrawing as there will likely be important impacts on their target GPA and grace credit calculation.* If there have been non-academic factors impacting your ability to be successful this semester, we recommend connecting with the [UNC Counseling Center](#) and/or our [Student Outreach and Support](#) team.

Who should I consult prior to withdrawing?

In addition to your professor(s), there are a few folks we suggest speaking with before withdrawing from any courses. First, connect with [your academic advisor\(s\)](#) as they can help you determine the best course of action; their recommendation may vary based on prerequisites for subsequent courses, your graduation timeline and academic standing, specific program requirements (including grade and GPA minimums), and your ability to use [grade replacement](#). Additionally, the [Office of Financial Aid](#) can help with questions regarding the impact on your aid, the [Office of the Registrar](#) is a great resource for specifics about withdrawing, and you may need to talk with [Housing and Dining](#) if you’re living on-campus (particularly if your current enrollment will drop below six credits). If you are a [student athlete](#), a student utilizing [VA benefits](#), a [CHE student](#), a student receiving support from [International Student and Scholar Services](#) with an F or J visa status, and/or a recipient of a programming-based UNC scholarship, we also recommend consulting with these offices before making a final decision.

When should I withdraw from a course?

Withdrawing from a course is usually the best choice when it is no longer possible for you to earn a passing grade. We *strongly* recommend consulting with your professor(s) before you withdraw. If they confirm that it isn't possible to pass a course, it may be in your best interest to withdraw early as eliminating the competing course demand can improve your ability to focus on the classes where success is within your reach. Please note that your withdrawal date may be a factor for both financial aid and any [registration or tuition appeals](#) you submit.

When is the deadline to withdraw?

Full-term withdrawal deadlines are posted here:

<https://www.unco.edu/registrar/registration/add-drop-withdrawal.aspx>. We highly recommend submitting any withdrawals **before 5:00 p.m.** in case you need support from the Office of the Registrar. Refer to the "Your Course Drop/Withdrawal Deadlines" link within your student tab on [Ursa](#) to see the deadlines for special or short-term courses.

How do I withdraw from a course?

If you intend to withdraw from one or more (but not all) of your courses, you can do so through Ursa; [this video](#) details the process. If you intend to withdraw from **all of your courses**, you will need to contact the Office of the Registrar for assistance. You can email registrar@unco.edu (from your BearMail), call (970) 351-4862, or visit the Bear Central office on the second floor of the Campus Commons.

Please note: If you have a registration hold on your account, you will need to contact the Office of the Registrar to withdraw regardless of the number of courses you wish to withdraw from.

Will my financial aid be affected if I withdraw?

Not successfully completing, i.e., withdrawing from, failing, or taking an incomplete in, one or more courses can impact your eligibility for financial aid. We always recommend talking with the Office of Financial Aid about your specific situation *before* making a final decision about withdrawing. You can contact them at OFA@unco.edu, (970) 351-4862, or by [scheduling an appointment](#). If you are receiving VA benefits, please email VA.SCO@unco.edu prior to withdrawing.

Who can I reach out to with questions?

The [HSS Advising Center](#) is here to answer your questions or connect you with someone who can, such as your academic advisor or the folks in [Bear Central](#). Please let us know how we can support you.

Email: HSS.Advising@unco.edu | Phone: (970) 351-3140 | Office: Candelaria Hall 0295

