



Academic Bankruptcy

Academic bankruptcy involves a student's request to retroactively withdraw one academic term of work because of extreme personal, emotional, or financial circumstances so devastating that it became impossible to perform academically at a level approximating the usual record of achievement. (Interim and summer terms are considered one academic term). The following specific guidelines apply to any Petition for Academic Bankruptcy:

1. Academic bankruptcy is never granted for an academic term in which the student is currently enrolled, nor for the previous academic term.
2. Petitions must be filed prior to graduation.
3. No more than one petition for academic bankruptcy may be granted during the student's academic career at The University of Alabama. When granted, it is irrevocable.
4. If the petition is approved, the grades for ALL courses taken during the academic term will be recorded as "W" (withdrawn).
5. A petition for academic bankruptcy is filed in the dean's office of the division in which the student is enrolled. After a student has been in a division for two academic terms, the division has the authority to grant academic bankruptcy for an academic term in which the student was enrolled in another division.
6. The academic performance during the semester for which a student is requesting academic bankruptcy must be markedly different from the student's academic performance in ALL other semesters in which the student has been enrolled at The University of Alabama. In general, academic bankruptcy will not be granted to a student who earned less than a C average in more than one semester.
7. The extenuating circumstances for which the student is requesting academic bankruptcy must be compelling, and they must be clearly and unquestionably proven. The burden of proof is entirely on the student. Verifiable documentation of the extenuating circumstances, such as letters from medical doctors or others, must be submitted with the petition.

When academic bankruptcy is granted, a student is withdrawn from ALL courses in which the student was enrolled during the semester including those in which the student received passing grades. A student may not enroll in any course which one of the “withdrawn” courses is a prerequisite until he or she has received a passing grade in the prerequisite course.

September 2012



PETITION FOR ACADEMIC BANKRUPTCY

Full Name: <i>(Print/ Clearly)</i>	Student CWID:
Local Mailing Address:	Local Phone Number:
Program/Engineering Major:	

I hereby request academic bankruptcy for the _____ (semester or term). My reasons for this request are explained in detail in the attached statement. I understand, if this petition is approved, the following will apply:

1. ALL grades for the term in question will be changed to “W”
2. The grade changes are irrevocable
3. I cannot enroll in a course for which any of the “withdrawn” courses are a prerequisite until I have a passing grade in the prerequisite course.
4. Bankruptcy can be granted no more than once during my enrollment at The University of Alabama

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Student Signature

FORM TO BE RETURNED TO ENGINEERING STUDENT SERVICES, 290 Hardaway Hall

College of	Action:	Comments:
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Engineering Dean or ESS Director	
	Signed: _____ Date: _____