

# Background

Currently, the Region 9 university transfer centers are trying to uniform academic renewal policies. They have based their recommendation off of Santa Monica College's (SMC) academic renewal policy which is very student friendly in working within the confines of Title 5. This document follows the College of the Deserts policy. <https://forms.collegeofthedesert.edu/Forms/form/new/22>):

Per Title 5, Section 55046, Academic Renewal permits the alleviation of previously recorded substandard academic performance which is not reflective of a student's present demonstrated ability and level of performance. The permanent academic record shall be annotated in such a manner that all work remains legible, ensuring a true and complete academic history.

1. The student is strongly advised to meet with a counselor for review of academic records.
2. A student may request up to 30 units of substandard coursework attempted to be annotated and disregarded in the computation of the student's grade point average or requirements for a degree. Only courses with substandard grade (D, F and FW) will be disregarded.
3. Neither grades nor courses will be removed from the student record. Instead, courses with Academic Renewal will be annotated on the student's record and removed from the GPA calculation.
4. The maximum number of San Bernardino Valley College units that may be alleviated is 30. Only units taken at San Bernardino Valley College may be alleviated, NOT units from other colleges.
5. At least one semester must have elapsed since the coursework to be considered was completed.
6. Students must have achieved a grade point average of at least a 2.0 GPA in 12 consecutive semester unit hours.
7. Courses from other regionally accredited colleges or universities will be accepted to provide evidence of academic ability. Both lower and upper-division units can be used for this purpose. The student must submit official transcripts. **Lower- and upper-division courses completed at institutionally accredited colleges may be used to demonstrate improved academic performance, as long as official transcripts are submitted directly from the original institution's academic record.**
8. No alleviated course work shall apply to degree requirements.
9. In the petition, the student must specify the course(s) to be considered for academic renewal as well as the term in which the course was attempted.
10. Some institutions do not honor academic renewal. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the transfer institution will approve of academic renewal from San Bernardino Valley College.
11. Students who have received an Academic Renewal will not be considered for Graduation Honors unless they meet the criteria using all grades earned.
12. Students who are in academic progress difficulty for financial aid purposes should contact the Financial Aid Office to determine how academic renewal affects aid.
13. Students may submit multiple academic renewal petition requests, but will be limited to 30 units per college. Once 30 units have been annotated and disregarded in the computation of the student's grade point average or requirements for a degree, the student can no longer request additional SBVC units be considered.

# New Form

## Academic Renewal Policy (Title 5, Section 55046)

### What is Academic Renewal?

Academic Renewal allows you to remove up to **30 SBVC units** of below passing grades (**D, F, or FW**) from your GPA if those grades no longer reflect your current ability. However, these courses will still appear on your transcript, just marked as "Academic Renewal."

### Who Should Consider It?

If you have **improved your academic performance** and want to boost your GPA or meet degree requirements, Academic Renewal may help. **Meet with a counselor first** to review your records and discuss your options.

## Key Rules for Academic Renewal

### Eligibility Requirements

- You must have completed **at least 12 semester units** with a **2.0 GPA or higher** since taking the substandard courses.
- **At least one semester must have passed** since you completed the courses you want to renew.
- **Only courses taken at San Bernardino Valley College can be petitioned for renewal.**
- **Both lower- and upper-division courses completed at institutionally accredited colleges may be used to demonstrate improved academic performance, as long as official transcripts are submitted directly from the original institution's academic record.**

### How It Works

- You can request **up to 30 units** of **D, F, or FW grades** taken at SBVC be removed from your GPA calculation.
- Students with substandard (D, F, FW) coursework at SBVC must complete SBVC's academic renewal process.
- **The grades and courses will still appear on your transcript**, but they won't count toward your GPA.
- **Academic Renewal courses cannot count toward degree requirements.**
- **You must specify which courses and terms you want to renew** when submitting your request.
- **You can submit multiple Academic Renewal requests**, but the total cannot exceed **30 units**.

### Important Considerations

- **Not all colleges accept Academic Renewal.** If you plan to transfer, check with your future school to see if they recognize it.
- **If you receive Academic Renewal, you won't qualify for Graduation Honors** unless your GPA meets the requirements using **all grades**.
- **If you receive financial aid, check with the Financial Aid Office** to see how Academic Renewal affects your eligibility.

# Academic *Renewal* Policy Changes

Title 5, Section 55046 – Updated Policy Aligned with Region 9 Transfer Standards

SBVC is updating its Academic Renewal policy to better support student success and align with Region 9 transfer center standards. These changes make the process more flexible, student-friendly, and consistent with Title 5 while making sure your academic history remains intact.

<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Max units that can be renewed per college</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Min subsequent units required (was 24)</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Semester wait time required (was 2 semesters)</p>	<p><b>D/F/FW</b></p> <p>Only substandard grades are eligible for renewal</p>
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WHAT'S CHANGING – SIDE BY SIDE

CATEGORY	CURRENT POLICY	UPDATED POLICY
Min. Units After	24 semester units at <i>any accredited college</i>	→ 12 consecutive semester units at any accredited college (upper- or lower-division accepted with official transcripts)
Wait Time	At least <b>two semesters</b> must have elapsed	→ At least <b>one semester</b> must have elapsed
Eligible Grades	Any substandard coursework (no specific grade restriction stated)	→ Only D, F, and FW grades are eligible – passing grades not affected
Which Courses	Up to <b>two consecutive terms</b> of attendance at any SBCCD college	→ Student <b>specifies individual courses and terms</b> – not limited to consecutive terms
College Scope	Units at any college within the <b>SBCCD District</b>	→ Only <b>SBVC units</b> may be petitioned (each college processes its own)
Number of Petitions	<b>One time per college only</b>	→ <b>Multiple petitions allowed</b> until 30-unit cap is reached
Graduation Honors	<b>Not addressed</b>	→ Students with Academic Renewal must meet honors criteria using <b>all grades earned</b>
Degree Requirements	<b>Not specified</b>	→ Renewed coursework <b>cannot count</b> toward degree requirements
Financial Aid	SAP calculation includes <b>all renewed units</b> (Title IV)	→ Contact the Financial Aid Office – renewal may <b>affect aid eligibility</b> ; SAP rules still apply

WHAT STAYS THE SAME

<p><b>TRANSCRIPT INTEGRITY</b></p> <p>All courses remain visible on the transcript, annotated as "Academic Renewal" – nothing is deleted.</p>	<p><b>2.0 GPA REQUIREMENT</b></p> <p>Students must have achieved at least a 2.0 GPA in subsequent coursework to be eligible.</p>	<p><b>PETITION AT A&amp;R</b></p> <p>Students must still file the Petition for Academic Renewal at Admissions &amp; Records after meeting with a counselor.</p>
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