Academic Forgiveness Policy

This policy is intended to assist former Canisius College students whose grade point average is below 2.0. The Academic Forgiveness Policy is intended to assist students who have reapplied to the college and demonstrate personal growth and motivation to accomplish their educational goals. This policy will allow for up to thirty (30) credit hours of coursework with grades of F or FX to be removed from the calculation of the grade point average. This program may be particularly important to education majors, who must have a grade of "C+" or better in their education courses and have a cumulative grade point average of 2.70 or higher to be eligible to student teach.

A period of not less than five years must have passed prior to the student’s readmission to the college. The student must submit a petition for academic forgiveness with the application to the college. The appropriate associate dean will meet with the student, review the petition, and make a recommendation. No acceptance decision will be made without the recommendation of the associate dean, after the review of the petition.

The admissions office will then process the application and notify the student of the decision. Once the associate dean has made a recommendation, a memo will be sent to the Student Records and Financial Services Center indicating that the student has been approved for academic forgiveness and listing the courses affected by the approval. Each affected course will have a grade of "X" listed to indicate the course is part of the academic forgiveness policy and not included in the calculation of the grade point average. The course will remain on the student's academic transcript.

The student must maintain a minimum semester average of 2.50 and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00. The student must meet with the department chair of the intended major. The department chair will review the academic record and make recommendations about what courses from five or more years ago will count toward completion of current major requirements. The student must take a minimum of ten (10) courses at Canisius College to be eligible for a degree. The student will be required to meet with the appropriate associate dean at least twice during the first semester. Progress reports will be required for students during the first semester after academic forgiveness is granted.

An agreement between the associate dean and the student will be completed in writing. The agreement will outline all the requirements for the student to be approved for academic forgiveness. This will also include, but not be limited to, the minimum semester and grade point average requirements, the required appointments for progress review, and course restrictions or limitations for the first semester. Failure of the student to meet the forgiveness agreement will result in automatic dismissal from the college.