

Guidelines for Petitioning an Additional Semester UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

The University's academic eligibility rules impose **limits on the number of semesters** (fall or spring) in which students are allowed to enroll. (There is no limit on summer sessions.)

New academic eligibility rules were instituted in 2007. Students are limited to **eight semesters**; special permission is required to enroll in a ninth semester.

Students who have experienced exceptionally extenuating circumstances may request permission to enroll for an additional semester beyond the applicable maximum.

To do so, students must fill out and submit a SPH Petition to Enroll for an Additional Semester form (see attached). The request will be sent to the Gillings Registrar at sph_registrar@unc.edu.

Petitions are usually approved in order to meet the following needs:

- to take courses required for graduation which are offered only in certain spring or fall semesters – despite the student's best efforts to complete these in a timely manner;
- to complete an honors thesis;
- to participate in a study-abroad program that requires the student to be enrolled as an undergraduate;
- to serve the University community via special student activities that significantly benefit the campus community;
- to serve the University as a red-shirted student-athlete or in the capacity of student personnel important to a varsity team and endorsed by the team's coaching staff;
- to retake a course required for graduation that was failed in the final semester.

The following are sometimes accepted as legitimate extenuating circumstances that result in the need for an additional semester:

- change of majors as recommended by academic advisor;
- loss of transfer credits;
- financial need necessitating heavy employment hours, thus reducing the student's ability to take 15-hour semesters or to attend summer sessions;
- health-related matters;
- personal and family situations that necessitated support from the student;
- course sequences for courses that are not offered every semester;
- failure of a course required for graduation;
- insufficient hours of "C" grades in the major core.

Petitions are usually denied for the following:

- to complete a second major
- to complete a minor
- to raise a grade-point average
- to take prerequisites for graduate or professional school
- to take courses related to employment
- to change major from BA to BS degree
- to complete degree requirements on campus in a fall or spring semester when there are readily-available alternatives via summer sessions or online courses

TAKING COURSES *AFTER* GRADUATION

To take courses at the University after graduation, students must apply to and be admitted by the Friday Center for Continuing Education, the Summer School, the Graduate School, or certain Health Affairs schools. Students cannot register as undergraduate students in the College of Arts earning a Bachelor's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill or from any other school.