

Dear Student:

In 2007, the Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill 1231 which provides that, except for several specific instances of good cause, undergraduate students entering as first time freshmen at a Texas public institution of higher education in the fall of 2007 or later will be limited to a total of six dropped courses during their undergraduate career.

Under the new law (Texas Education Code, Sec. 51.907), “an institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop more than six courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education.” SB 1231 applies to courses dropped at public institutions of higher education in Texas, including community and technical colleges, health science centers that offer undergraduate programs, and universities.

Some courses will not count against the six-drop limit. These include courses dropped at independent or private Texas institutions, courses dropped while the student is still enrolled in high school, developmental courses, non-funded courses or courses dropped at colleges in other states.

For the purposes of this law, a “dropped course” is defined as a course that is dropped after the census date (12th class day), but before the last day to drop.

The law also provides that exceptions to the six-drop limit are permissible provided there is good cause. These exceptions are established and monitored by the colleges and universities. When you have reached your six-drop limit, you will be required to certify that you are eligible to drop additional courses under one of these exceptions.

The list of exceptions for Texas State University students includes:

- a. A severe illness or debilitating condition
- b. Providing care for a sick, injured or needy person
- c. Death of a family member or personal friend
- d. Active duty service for Texas National Guard or Armed Forces of the United States for either you, a family member or personal friend
- e. Change in work schedule beyond your control
- f. Change of major or minor
- g. Incorrect academic advising
- h. Prerequisite course not completed
- i. Incompatibility with faculty member
- j. Transportation problem
- k. Financial hardship
- l. Received prior credit or test results after drop deadline

If none of the above reasons apply and you have extenuating circumstances, you will be given an opportunity to appeal to the academic department chair or director for the course you wish to drop. If approved by the department, you will be able to go online and drop the course.

To comply with this legislation, we have begun monitoring the number of dropped courses for individual students beginning with the 2007 fall semester.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is working with the public colleges and universities to implement this law, and this may result in updates or modifications to current definitions and procedures. Any changes will be communicated to you and posted on the Registrar’s Website.

If you have any questions regarding this new rule, please contact the Registrar’s Office, at 512.245.2367 or e-mail at Registrar@txstate.edu.