

## Senate Course Relief Policy

### FAQs

#### **Q1: When can students apply for Course Relief?**

**A:** As with requests for program changes, students may submit the online application form for Course Relief at any time during an academic session. It is the responsibility of the new program to determine the effective date of the program change, which will either be the Fall/Winter or Summer session. Note, depending on the timing of a program's approval of the Major change and course relief, enrolment in courses for the new Major in the current or next term will be subject to availability.

#### **Q2: When a program considers a student's request for the Course Relief Policy to be applied, how does it determine the student's eligibility for the program?**

**A:** In accordance with the Course Relief Policy and Regulations students must be eligible for admission to the new program. Eligibility includes meeting the existing admission requirements of the program (i.e., required high school courses). Programs will also consider and weigh students' GPA of their completed courses at York, including a calculation of the GPA that excludes the courses completed toward the prior major requirements.

#### **Q3: When Course Relief is granted to a student returning from a Required Withdrawal or Debarment do they proceed in the new program under Academic Warning or Debarment Warning as they would if they were resuming in their original program?**

**A:** It depends on the student's standing, as follows:

- a.** If excluding the courses completed toward a student's prior major requirements does not raise the GPA to the level required for continuing student status, the academic penalty legislation will be applied to a returning student proceeding in the new program (with either an Academic Warning or Debarment Warning accordingly).
- b.** If excluding the courses completed toward a student's prior major requirements raises the GPA to the level required for continuing student status, the academic penalty legislation will not be applied to a returning student proceeding in the new program.

**Q4: When a student receives either a Required Withdrawal or Debarment academic decision, can they apply for Course Relief and have the required withdrawal / debarment waived?**

**A:** Petitioning for a waiver of a required withdrawal or debarment has been a long standing option for students and continues to be an option. The Course Relief Policy is applicable to students *returning* from a required withdrawal or debarment, or to students who have had a petition for waiver of a withdrawal granted. The Course Relief Policy on its own, however, does not set aside academic decisions such as debarment or required withdrawal. It is also not automatic grounds for a waiver to be granted by a petitions committee.

**Q5: Even though the Course Relief Policy came into effect as of FW 2016-2017, can a continuing student who previously transferred to a new program apply to have the major courses from their prior program excluded from their GPA?**

**A:** Yes.

The intention of the Course Relief Policy is to facilitate York students' completion of their degree in progress. Therefore, while students should be encouraged to apply for Course Relief at the point of transfer, the policy may be retroactively applied as follows:

Continuing students who have transferred to a new program within their last 84 completed credits may apply to their new home program to have the Course Relief Policy apply, whereby the courses completed toward their prior major requirements will be excluded from the overall cumulative GPA and credit accumulation for their new Major program.

**Q6: Can a student registered as “Undeclared Major” apply for the Course Relief Policy when transferring to their Major program?**

**A:** Yes.

The category of Undeclared Major is understood to be in effect the student's "major". In such cases decisions about the relevant courses to exclude from the GPA calculation will be made in accordance with the Regulations of the Course Relief Policy, and in consultation with the new Major program. Students are expected to choose their Major after their first year of study.