

GRADUATE FRESH START PROGRAM

Dear Graduate Student:

The University of Massachusetts Lowell has an established policy which permits masters and doctoral degree candidates and non degree students who have been absent from the University for four years or more may be readmitted under the program “**Graduate Fresh Start.**” If admitted into a degree granting program, under the terms of Graduate Fresh Start, a returning graduate student who chooses this option will be treated as if s/he were a new student. A maximum of two courses (six credits) at the 500 level or higher completed during earlier periods of enrollment with grades of “B” or better may, with the approval of the graduate coordinator in the degree granting department, be transferred into the degree program. These two courses must be transferred via an academic petition and will be accepted toward graduation but not included in the cumulative grade point average. Thesis and dissertation research credits are ineligible for transfer. Courses completed during earlier periods of enrollment with grades below “B” are not eligible for transfer.

The terms of the “**Fresh Start**” program are outlined below:

- A. A master’s, doctoral, non degree or certificate student must have been absent from UMass Lowell for a period of at least four academic years.
- B. Students must follow the normal procedures for admission to the University and be admitted to a degree program. During the four year period that the student is absent from the University, the student is not allowed to make progress toward a University degree.
- C. Students must attach a personal statement which addresses personal and professional growth during the period of time in which the student was absent from the University which supports the student’s potential for academic success.
- D. A maximum of two courses (six credits) at the 500 level or higher completed during earlier periods of enrollment with grades of “B” or better may, with the approval of the graduate coordinator in the degree granting department, be transferred into the degree program. A request to transfer these courses must be made via an academic petition.
- E. Thesis and dissertation research credits are ineligible for transfer.
- F. If admitted, credits and GPA start at zero. Transfer courses may count towards the degree, but are not included in the GPA.
- G. All courses taken and grades achieved during earlier periods of enrollment will appear on the transcript along with a notation that they are not included in the cumulative average. Once this change is made to the academic record, the change **can not be reversed.**
- H. Students may apply under the Graduate Fresh Start program once at the graduate level.

If you decide to take advantage of this policy, please sign below and return this letter to:

Graduate Admissions Office
University of Massachusetts - Lowell
Cumnock Hall - Suite 110
One University Avenue
Lowell, MA 01854

Fax: 978-934-2162

Email: graduate_admissions@uml.edu

I wish to take advantage of the “Graduate Fresh Start” program. I agree to the conditions stated above.

Signature

Date

Please print name:

Name and Student ID number