



To Drop or Not to Drop – Things to Consider

Course withdrawal has repercussions, and should be a last resort. Before you decide to drop a course, have you tried any of the following?

- meeting your professor during his/her office hours to discuss your difficulties
- forming a study group with your classmates to work through problems
- attending Learning Skills Workshops to improve your study habits
- finding a tutor to help you master specific concepts
- making a Write Place appointment to get essay feedback
- using practice tests or previous tests, if available on file, to help prepare for future tests and exams

Withdrawing makes sense if:

- you've tried various learning strategies and are still unable to follow the course material
- you're certain that you won't be able to pass the course (a Fail has a greater negative impact on your transcript than a Withdrawn)
- you've missed several classes, and think it unlikely that you will be able to catch up
- you're carrying a heavy workload outside university and need to adjust course load to cope with stress
- you're dealing with health or personal issues that are affecting regular class attendance and timely submission of assignments

Withdrawing has some negative consequences:

- you will complete fewer course credits this year
- a summer course (often the only way to make up for a dropped Fall/Winter course) will entail additional financial costs (around \$1100 for a full credit)
- you may be short of the number of courses needed to enter/progress in an Honors Specialization program
- you may be delaying your program admission by dropping a prerequisite you need
- your eligibility for a scholarship or financial assistance (including OSAP), or other funding may be jeopardized
- those "WDN" notations on your transcript may suggest that you did not plan carefully, lack time management and problem-solving skills or perseverance
- applicants to some professional programs need to demonstrate the ability to carry a full course load