GENERAL POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Student Class Attendance - Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled classes, laboratories, or clinic sessions when reasonably possible. Some justified and unavoidable absences are expected. Absences in excess of 10% of the sessions scheduled may reduce the grade for the course. A student is expected to account for absences, preferably in advance, to the instructor of the course and, at the discretion of the instructor, to promptly make up the work missed. Albany State University has implemented a No Show/Faculty Withdrawal Policy.

The policy states the following:

1. During the two-week period immediately following the first day of class, each faculty member notifies the Office of Registrar of those students on the class roster who have never attended class or actively participated in their online course. The students will be dropped and the course will not appear on the students’ permanent academic records.

2. Up until midterm or “last day to drop without academic penalty,” the faculty member may withdraw any student who has ceased to attend/participate actively in a class, and the student will receive a grade of “W” on their academic record.

3. After midterm or “last day to drop without academic penalty,” faculty can continue to withdraw any student who has ceased to attend/participate actively in a class; however, the student will receive a grade of “WF” on their academic record.

4. The Office of the Registrar notifies students of faculty withdrawal actions; the Financial Aid Office is also notified. The student is responsible for understanding a withdrawal or faculty withdrawal may result in loss of financial aid and that failing to properly withdraw from a course may result in receiving a failing grade of “F” for the course.

Online Attendance

Attendance in online classes is verified in terms of participation, time spent in a particular unit or other part of online courseware, time spent in chats and online discussion, quality and quantity of chat and online discussion content, quality and quantity of e-mail, quality and quantity of course work, test participation, and other considerations. Distance learning courses at Albany State University are instructor-led classes, not independent study or correspondence courses. Students are expected to engage actively in the course content, participate in student-teacher and student-student communications, and complete assignments and tests according to the requirements and schedule of the course instructor.

Failure to participate, communicate, or meet course requirements within the time frame required by the instructor may reduce the grade for the course or initiate faculty withdrawal procedures as noted in the “Student Attendance Policy.” Divisions or departments may have class attendance policies of a more specific nature within this general policy statement. Each instructor shall provide detailed policies and procedures in writing to each student at the beginning of the course.

Students who miss classes while serving as jurors will not be penalized for such absences but will be required to make up classwork missed as a result of jury service.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are non-academic grounds for expulsion from Albany State University. No student shall give or receive any assistance not authorized by the professor in the preparation of any assignment, report, project, or examination to be submitted as a requirement for academic credit.

Online courses at Albany State University utilize plagiarism software tools such as Turnit in as a positive instructional tool and to promote academic integrity.

Comprehensive Examination

Successful completion of a comprehensive examination is required in all degree programs. Students must apply to take their examination one semester in advance of the semester in which the examination is to be taken.

Comprehensive examinations cover all work prescribed by the student’s program of study, including transferred credits and research projects, if applicable. This examination is constructed and administered by the major department.

A student must be registered during the semester in which the comprehensive examination is taken. The comprehensive examination can be taken only once in a given semester with a maximum of three attempts permitted.

Credit Hour Definition

Albany State University bases the awarding of credit hours on section 3.4.1 of the University System of Georgia Policy Manual — often referred to as the “750 minute policy” which states: “All USG institutions shall be on the semester system (BOR Minutes, December, 1995). The academic year shall consist of two (2) regular semesters, each not to be less than fifteen (15) calendar weeks in length, excluding registration. A minimum of 750 minutes of instruction is required for each semester credit hour.” ASU expands on this definition by stipulating not only the number of hours of instruction, but also by stipulating the number of hours (or equivalent) that students are required to devote to each course outside of class. By so doing, the University policy (below) explicitly aligns with both SACSCOC and federal policies on the awarding of credit hours: For each credit hour, a student is to be engaged for 50-minutes of instruction time per week (or the equivalent of 750 minutes) over the entire semester of approximately 15 weeks through time in the classroom or direct faculty instruction, or on assignments, discussions, and/or examinations, excluding the final, to meet the required learning outcomes and two hours of student work outside of class each week with course activities, as reflected in the course syllabus. The credit hour definition for courses or portions of a course designated for learning activities that involve experiences or take place outside of the classroom varies according to the course. Students in these courses are expected to perform these out-of-class activities including work-place observation, shadowing, technical training, supervised teaching, etc., for a specified period of time —number of weeks, days during the week, and hours per day. The ratio of credit hour to contact time will vary with the program involved, but are designated in the course syllabus (the hours for class and hours for lab/clinical/other). Academic credits assigned to these courses align
with each program’s accreditation standards and are determined by the number of out-of-class contact (work) hours the student is required to complete. The definition for a credit hour is the same for face to face or online courses.

**Degree or Transcript Issuance**

Transcripts of academic credits are available upon request to the Office of Academic Services and Office of the Registrar. Students with no financial obligations to the University shall be issued a degree or transcript of academic credits.

**Grades**

Official course grades are transmitted to students only by the Office of Academic Services and Office of the Registrar.