To Drop or Not to Drop

Last day to drop with automatic W: Friday, October 25

The following questions are intended to help you through the decision-making process of keeping or dropping a course. **Before making any decisions, however, please consult an academic advisor!**

**Step 1: Gather Information**

- What is my current situation in the class?
  - What grade have I earned at this point?
  - How much time and effort have I put into the course?
  - How much of the final grade is already determined?
- What do I need to do to improve my situation?
  - What does the professor recommend?
  - How much more time/effort do I need to invest?
  - How well do I need to do on future tests/papers?
  - Is there an opportunity for bonus or extra credit?
- Are there external factors beyond my control?
  - Chronic illness?
  - Serious injury?

**Step 2: Identify Questions**

- What are my chances of passing this class? Of getting a “C”? Do I need to make at least a “C” for my major (for example, health or engineering)?
- Have I decided to change my major so now this course is not required for my new degree?
- Will I still have at least 12 credit hours (full-time status) after dropping this class?
- If not, how will dropping below full-time status affect my financial aid and scholarships (if any)? <Financial Aid Office: Buchanan Hall, room 216; 405-325-4521>
- Will dropping below full time affect medical coverage, housing, insurance, etc.? <You may need to talk to your parents about these issues.>

**Step 3: Consider the Consequences of These Options**

- What are the consequences of earning a “D” or “F” grade in the class? Will it put me below the required 2.0 to stay at the university?
- Is this course a pre-requisite for something else I need to take? Is a “C” required to satisfy the pre-requisite requirement? If not, is my foundation strong enough to do well in the next course if I make a “D” and need to continue <for example, MATH 1643 to MATH 1743, or SPAN 1115 to SPAN 1225>?
- How will my performance in other classes be affected if I decide to stay in the course and invest additional time and energy in it? How will dropping this class affect my other classes?
- What are the consequences of having a “W” on my transcript? Do I want to use one of my five Ws now, leaving me four to use for the remaining time I’m a student at OU?
- If I drop the class, will I have trouble making up the credits? Is summer school and/or intersession an option?

Adapted from “To Drop or Not to Drop”
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