

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Academic Fresh Start Program and Acknowledgement

Academic Fresh Start is a provision of the "right to an Academic Fresh Start" legislation published in the Texas Education Code, Section 51.931. Under this law, a Texas resident may apply for admission to an institution of higher education and, at the same time, request that the institution ignore all academic course credits or grades earned 10 or more years prior to the starting date of the semester for which the applicant seeks admission. An applicant who elects to take advantage of Academic Fresh Start cannot pick the course credits or grades that are to be eliminated from consideration. All course grades or credits must be excluded. **Academic Fresh Start is considered an admission tool. Therefore, it is only for students who do not meet our admission requirements.**

To apply through Academic Fresh Start a student who is a Texas resident submits this signed acknowledgement form as a part of the admission process. A student should carefully review this handout to make sure that the terms of the program are understood. If the student agrees to the provisions of fresh start and **does not meet admission requirements**, he/she should sign this acknowledgment form and submit it to the Office of Admissions. All required documents to support the application for admission must be submitted as well. For the Fresh Start applicant, **the catalog in effect at the time the Academic Fresh Start** application is effective.

Even though the academic work will not be evaluated, **official transcripts from all former institutions attended are still required for admissions.**

A former student who applies for readmission to UTSA may elect Academic Fresh Start at the time of application, **if he/she would not be eligible for readmission without declaring "Academic Fresh Start."** UTSA course work ignored for admission purposes under Academic Fresh Start will remain on the student's official UTSA academic transcript. A notation is recorded on the transcript that identifies those courses eliminated by fresh start. Fresh Start courses cannot be used to fulfill UTSA degree requirements or to remove any other existing deficiencies.

The Fresh Start option is irrevocable. Once the student requests the Academic Fresh Start option and action has been taken, it may not be revoked. It is also important to realize that since no credit is being claimed for coursework ignored through the Fresh Start admission process; prerequisite coursework will need to be retaken.

There is **nothing in the law that limits a student** to one chance at an Academic Fresh Start. However, the Academic Fresh Start option is tied to the admission process and may only be requested at the time of admission or readmission. **Also, if a student declared Academic Fresh Start at a previous institution**, there is not a need to reapply through Academic Fresh Start with UTSA. However, it is imperative that the academic record (official transcript) from the transferring school indicates Academic Fresh Start.

Academic Fresh Start is a state **law that applies only to admission decisions** and does not override federal regulations. Therefore, **federal regulations concerning financial aid are not affected by Academic Fresh Start.**

Also, Academic Fresh Start does not apply to veterans who are eligible for the Montgomery G.I. Bill. All prior credit must be evaluated and applied to the veteran's degree requirements. For questions concerning veterans' benefits, the UTSA VA Office is located in the Humanities Social Sciences Building, room 3.01.24, or a student may call (210) 458-4540 prior to applying for Academic Fresh Start.

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- **I understand and accept** the provisions of the Academic Fresh Start Program as described above.
 - **I acknowledge** that I will not receive any credit for academic work earned 10 or more years ago.
 - **I certify** that I have provided a complete and accurate record of my academic history.
 - **I understand** that this action cannot be revoked.

Print Full Name

Date of Birth

Signature

Date