

Frequently Asked Questions – Preparing Petitions for Waiver of Academic Rule, et. al

Please use the following Frequently Asked Questions to guide you in preparing your Petition for Waiver of any Academic Rule, including but not limited to Reinstatement, Grade Appeals, Readmission, Visiting Elsewhere, and/or Externship/Non-Course Credit. These FAQs are meant only as a guide. To the extent they contradict any portion of the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, or any other FCSL policy manual, those documents will govern.

1. What is the appropriate format for my Petition?

All petitions should adhere to the following format:

- The name of the petition
- The rule the petitioner is asking to be waived
- Times New Roman
- 12-point font
- single spacing
- proper grammar and spelling

2. What should be included in my Petition?

All petitions should clearly and concisely set forth the relief requested. You are required to provide any relevant information or documentation that will aid the decision-making process.

Specifically, with regard to Petitions for Reinstatement after a student has been Academically Dismissed, although the following is not an exhaustive list, the following information should be included:

- the reason for the student's failure to maintain the required grade point average
- that the reason for the student's failure to maintain the required grade point average has been addressed and will not be a problem in the future such that it will not interfere with the student's progress in the future
- that the student is aware of the necessary grade point average that is required in the following semester(s) in order to remain enrolled
- the student's plan for the future (detailed explanation with regard to the student's study plan and involvement with Academic Success)
- if the student has filed a Petition for Reinstatement in the past, explain the circumstances regarding the previous reinstatement - i.e., what

conditions were not met, the limited progress made toward achieving the previous goal of good standing, and difference between the failure to meet the obligations in the past and the student's plan for meeting the obligations now and in the future

- any other factors the students feel is relevant to the decision-making process

3. May I solicit and/or receive help in preparing my Petition?

No. The document must be prepared by the petitioning student. No faculty, staff, administration, friends, family, etc. is permitted to be involved in the process.

4. What if I believe I have been dismissed due to a wrongly calculated or determined grade(s)?

In order to comply with procedural and timing requirements set for in the Student Handbook, it is highly recommended that the student file a petition for reinstatement even though you are contesting a grade or expecting a grade change.

5. Will I still receive a financial aid stipend if I have been academically dismissed?

No, students who are not on active status are not able to receive a financial aid stipend, which includes students who are academically dismissed. The funds are returned to the lender.

6. Am I still able to continue attending my classes if I am submitting a petition?

No, upon an academic dismissal, students will be automatically withdrawn from all courses and will not appear on class rosters. Any tuition and fees assessed will be refunded.

7. Am I able to reapply to Florida Coastal or another Law School?

Dismissed students who wish to reapply to law school must demonstrate academic fitness before reapplying to any ABA accredited law school. This is an ABA rule: ABA Standard 501(c).

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/misc/legal_education/Standards/2015_2016_aba_standards_for_approval_of_law_schools_final.authcheckdam.pdf

Information for previously disqualified applicants from FCSL:

- 1) An applicant who has been disqualified previously from law school for academic reasons shall submit a personal statement and other evidence affirmatively demonstrating that the applicant's prior disqualification does not indicate a lack of capacity to complete the Florida Coastal School of Law program of legal education and to be admitted to the bar.
- 2) The applicant will not be eligible to apply for admission to FCSL unless at least six months have elapsed since the prior disqualification. This time period is non-waivable.
- 3) The applicant's file shall be reviewed by the Admissions and Scholarships Committee, which will consider the following factors when deciding whether to recommend admission of the applicant:
 - a. Mitigating or extenuating circumstances regarding the prior disqualification;
 - b. Remediation measures the applicant has taken to address the root causes of the prior disqualification;
 - c. Interim work, activity, or studies the applicant has completed since the prior disqualification that may indicate a stronger potential for law study; and,
 - d. Admission test scores; performance in undergraduate, graduate, or professional programs; extracurricular activities; work experience; and other relevant demonstrated skills.
- 4) If the Committee recommends admission, it shall supplement the applicant's file with a brief statement of the considerations that led to that recommendation.

A student will need to inquire with other schools to determine when you may reapply.

8. Does Florida Coastal provide 505 letters to enroll in another ABA-accredited law school?

Dismissed students will sometimes apply to other law schools and then approach Florida Coastal about writing a letter on their behalf that says that they have the capacity to complete a course of study in a law school setting. For obvious reasons, Florida Coastal does not issue letters of good standing for students who have been dismissed due to poor academic performance. Florida Coastal does not provide 505 letters as an institutional policy.

9. If I do not agree with the decision of the Academic Standards Committee, can I appeal to any other staff or faculty member?

No, the decision of the ASC is final.