



## Should I Drop/Withdraw from a Class?

Withdrawing, or “dropping”, from a class is an avenue to maintain a good GPA. Withdrawing has no impact on your GPA and a notation of “W” may be noted on your transcript depending on which week it is in the semester. However, there could be several potential negative consequences by withdrawing from a course.

### Example of how withdrawing can affect your GPA

Earning a “F” Grade		Withdrawing	
Eng 101	A	Eng 101	A
Hist 11	A	Hist 11	A
Art 101	B	Art 101	B
Econ 1	F	Econ 1	W
<b>GPA</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>GPA</b>	<b>3.67</b>

In this scenario, withdrawing would be the best choice if a student there was a possibility of earning a “C” grade or lower.

### Information to help you decide whether or not you should withdraw from a class

- Talk to your professor first. Find out what the chances are of you passing the class and what you need to do. Determine whether or not you are able to fulfill these obligations or if it will not be possible.
- Talk to a financial aid representative if you are receiving financial aid and see how withdrawing from a class could affect you. You may need to repay the money or not receive the full amount you were expecting.
- You may need to be enrolled in 12 units to be considered a full-time student if you are an international student or to receive health insurance, car insurance, or government benefits. You may need to maintain full-time status if you are in a special program, such as EOPS.
- You must report “W” grades to the UC and CSU systems. These grades do not affect your GPA. Having one, two, or even three “W”s is acceptable but you do not want to have a long history of “W”s such that the university may be concerned that you will continue that pattern of withdrawing once you transfer.
- You may retake a course that you earned a “W” in. However, a “W” is considered an attempt and you may only attempt a course 3 times. After a course is attempted 3 times you will have to petition to repeat the course or take it outside the Los Angeles Community College District.
- Some private schools, like USC, frown upon “W” grades and this could decrease your chances of being admitted.
- Having too many “W”s may affect your academic standing at Pierce College. You could be put on progress probation and eventually be dismissed from the college.
- Withdrawing from a course means that you will be behind on units and progress towards your goal. You will need to catch up by either taking courses in Winter or Summer Intersession, taking more units in the Fall or Spring term, or staying additional semester(s).

- You may not get a refund depending on when you withdraw. Check the semester calendar for more information.

*Still not sure if you should withdraw from a class?  
Check with a counselor!*

### **How to withdraw from a class**

Check the semester calendar for the deadline date. You may withdraw online via your student portal.

### **Resources to help you if you decide to stay in the class**

[Center for Academic Success](#) offers free tutoring in English, math, foreign languages, etc. They also lead various student success workshops such as note-taking test-taking strategies, and writing workshops. The Online Writing Lab (OWL) is a service provided by the Center for Academic Success in which a student tutor who specializes in writing and support student writing projects entirely online.