

**Academic Affairs Committee**  
Course Repeat Policy

Assignment: Review course repeat policy and revise to align policy among programs at IUPUI, IUPUC, and IUFW campuses.

Assigned: November 29, 2021

Due Date: June 30, 2022

**Comments by AAC:**

Jan. 24, 2022

The AAC discussed this policy and voted unanimously to establish a CAMPUS WIDE repeat rule for all undergraduate academic programs at IUPUI, IUPUC, and IUFW effective FALL 2022 using LATEST as default rule while continuing to allow for exceptions as appropriate and as determined by the academic program.

The updated policy is ready for consideration by the Executive Committee.

Proposed policy begins on page 2.

## Aligning Undergraduate Repeat Rules: IUPUI – IUPUC – IU Fort Wayne

What is a repeat rule and when does it apply?

Each course in the IU course catalog has a limit on a) the number of times a student may enroll in a course (total completions allowed) and b) the maximum number of credit hours that counted as earned credit (total units allowed).

Repeat for Credit Rules	
<input type="checkbox"/> Repeat for Credit	Total Units Allowed 3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Allow Multiple Enroll in Term	Total Completions Allowed 1

When a student exceeds those allowable values, the 'repeat rule' of the student's academic program determines whether and how repeated courses will count in the student's total credits and GPA statistics. Repeat codes apply to individual instances of the repeated course and are seen on IU enrollment, posted transfer credit, test credit, and special credit. Messages display on the transcript based on the repeat code applied indicated which course credit and/or GPA is counting.

Historically, each academic program<sup>1</sup> in the SIS, upon creation, selected one of the following repeat rule options to apply to their degree-seeking students:

REPEAT RULE	DEFINITION
<b>AVERAGE</b>	All attempts included in GPA. Hours count for best attempt.
<b>BEST</b>	Best attempt counts - all others dropped from hours and GPA
<b>FIRST</b>	First attempt counts - all others dropped from hours and GPA
<b>LATEST</b>	Latest (most recent) attempt counts - all others dropped from hours and GPA
<b>NONE</b>	No rule at program or career. Everything counts.

### Issues caused by program-specific repeat rules

Allowing repeat rules to be determined by individual academic programs has caused many issues for undergraduate<sup>2</sup> students.

- Widespread confusion about impact of repeating a course due to the variety of rules by program
- Existing rules not clearly or consistently outlined on websites or in the academic bulletin
- Inability to predict impact on academic statistics as any change in major; *student's GPA and earned credits may overnight without any change in actual enrollment*
- Students in identical repeated courses and grade can have different GPA values based on student's academic program repeat rule unintentionally creating programmatic advantage (or disadvantage)
- Advisors unable to counsel on the impact of major change as WHAT-IF AAR cannot recalculate statistics
- Programs across our three locations have mismatched repeat rules
- Programs with NONE ignore course catalog rules which result in double-counting and inflated statistics
- Requires manual review for each NONE program student before applying Indiana College Core (formerly INSTGEC) milestone

**Aligning repeat rules for all undergraduate programs at IUPUI, IUPUC, and IU Fort Wayne would eliminate the issues above.** The IU Transfer & Articulation Committee is also asking campuses to establish a common repeat rule to increase transparency around the impact of repeated courses. Changing majors would no longer

<sup>1</sup> Repeat rules are NOT specific to majors. Rather, academic programs in SIS usually represents a school or school unit. i.e. LIBA1 (all undergraduate majors within Liberal Arts) has a single repeat rule.

<sup>2</sup> Alignment of repeat rules for GRAD, GRD1, LAW, MED, or DENT careers is far less problematic due to much smaller number of students changing majors or campuses at these levels. Any alignment for those careers to be discussed at later date.

results in a change in GPA or earned credit hours. Repeat rule policy would be transparent to all prospective students and would match national trend in 'one rule' when a course is retaken regardless of major<sup>3</sup>.

Recommendation: [Align undergraduate programs under LATEST repeat rule](#)

1. Establish a **CAMPUS WIDE** repeat rule for all undergraduate academic programs at IUPUI, IUPUC, and IUPUI effective FALL 2022 using LATEST as default rule.
  - a. Best reflects the current level of understanding of a student
  - b. Most common practice in Indiana and amongst our peer institutions
  - c. While majority of programs currently apply BEST, most students repeating courses are in programs with LATEST rule
  - d. Students overwhelmingly do better on their subsequent attempt (latest) at a course; *91% of BEST program students would remain unchanged by move from BEST to LATEST rule<sup>4</sup>*
  - e. Is the only way to ensure Purdue-mission and IU-mission students are treated equitably in calculation of academic statistics; Purdue-mission programs follow LATEST repeat rule as Purdue policy applies one rule regardless of program or campus
2. Continue to allow for exceptions as appropriate and as determined by the academic program.
3. Consider future IU-enterprise alignment given increase in collaborative, cross-campus programs.

Policies not impacted by aligned repeat rule

Alignment under a single undergraduate repeat rules would not impact the following policies/practices:

- ❖ Ability for academic program to consider exception to campus repeat rule; exception process already exists to allow for programs to review individual student circumstances
- ❖ Program requirements limiting number of allowable attempts of a course
- ❖ Program requirements or prerequisites related to age of original course completion
- ❖ Financial aid eligibility (federal regulations for repeated courses remain unchanged)

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<sup>3</sup> Appendix 1 shows existing repeat rules across IUPUI locations, IU campuses, Indiana public institutions, and IUPUI peer institutions.

<sup>4</sup> Reviewed all currently enrolled students in BEST programs:

- 71% of students earned higher grade in LATEST course (latest rule would be same as best rule)
- 20% of students earned same grade in LATEST course (latest rule would be same as best rule)
- 9% of students earned higher grade in earlier attempt where BEST would truly apply. These students would be eligible for exception consideration.

## APPENDIX 1: Repeat Rule Policy Compare

IUPUI – IUPUC – IU Fort Wayne = UGRD SIS academic programs currently using repeat rule)

	AVERAGE	BEST	LATEST
IUPUI*	Education (EDUC) Informatics (INFO) Fairbanks Public Health (PBHL)	Herron (HERR) Kelley Business (BUS) Dental Education (DAED) Kinesiology (KINE) Health Sciences (HLSC) Nutrition & Dietetics (NTRD) Tourism, Event & Sport Mgmt (TSEM) Liberal Arts (LIBA) General Studies (LBGS) Lilly Philanthropy (PHST) O'Neill Public & Envir Affairs (SPEA) Social Work (SWK) Labor Studies (LSTU)	Engineering (ENGR) Technology (TECH) Music (MUS) Science (SCI) Health Professions (MED) Nursing (NURS)
IUPU-Columbus*	Education (EDUC) Business (BUSC)	Liberal Arts (LIBA) General Studies (LBGS)	Engineering (ENGR) Science (SCI)
IU Fort Wayne	Public Health (PBHL)	Health Sciences (HLSC) Social Work (SWK)	Dental Education (DAED) Health Professions (MED) Nursing (NURS)

\* Programs with NONE repeat rule: IUINA = UCOL/exploratory; IUPUC = UCOL, Health Sciences (COMH, NURS)

## Other IU Campuses

	AVERAGE	BEST	LATEST
IU Bloomington	X		
IU Southeast		X	
IU Northwest	X	X (1)	
IU Kokomo	X		
IU East		X (1)	X
IU South Bend	X		

## Indiana Public (4-year)

	AVERAGE	BEST	LATEST
Ball State University			X
Indiana State University		X	
Purdue University (all locations)			X
University of Southern Indiana			X

## IUPUI Peer Institutions

	AVERAGE	BEST	LATEST
Portland State University (Portland, OR)	X		
Univ of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI)		X	
Univ of Colorado Denver/Anschutz Medical Campus (Denver, CO)		X	
Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, VA)		X	
University of Cincinnati - Main Campus (Cincinnati, OH)			X
University of Utah (Salt Lake City, UT)			X
Wayne State University (Detroit, MI)			X
Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA)			X
Boise State University (Boise, ID)			X
University of Nevada-Las Vegas (Paradise, NV)			X