

Thinking about dropping a CAGS course?

When life happens and you're thinking about dropping a course, there are a few things to consider before making that decision. This document is designed to help you think through the potential implications so you can make the most informed decision.

Timing is everything

When considering schedule changes, always think about the timing as it could have major impacts on how the decision might affect your finances, grades, transcripts, and schedule.

Drop vs. Withdraw

Every class has a census date (Week 3, Day 1). If you drop the course before that date, then the class will not show up on your transcript. If you drop on or after that date, then it will be processed as a Withdrawal and show up as a "W" on your transcript. If you have any questions about the specifics, please contact your Student Support Specialist.

Refund Schedule

Dropping a class should always be a last resort and we often have resources and options to help students persist in their class; however, if the need truly arises then it is best to do so before the course begins. Below you can find MACU's refund schedule:

- Drops prior to course start = 100% refund
- Drops during week 1 = 80% refund
- Drops during week 2 = 60% refund
- Drops during and after week 3 = 0% refund
- Courses cannot be dropped during their final week

Delayed Graduation

Dropping a course can result in major changes to your future schedule! One thing to keep in mind is that every course dropped will add at least 5 weeks to your graduation date. We say "at least 5 weeks" because some courses are only offered on a limited basis, which could result in a schedule gap.

Counting the Cost

No matter your method of paying for college, dropping a course could potentially affect your funding. This is especially true when it comes to Title IV Federal Aid and VA Funding.

Funding "Aggregate" Limits

Students have a lifetime limit to how much federal financial aid they can receive. Paying for a course more than once can cause you to reach that limit before finishing your degree.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

The Department of Education tracks every student's degree progress to make sure they are meeting certain criteria and earning their degrees within a reasonable timeframe. When a student carries a low GPA for too long, or if they drop, fail, or withdraw from too many courses, they can end up on Financial Aid Suspension.

Financial Aid Suspension

When financially suspended, the Department of Education states that a student is no longer eligible to receive aid until they meet the criteria for Satisfactory Academic Progress. Students are still academically eligible to attend classes at MACU even while on Financial Suspension, however they must do so using alternative payment methods such as private loans, scholarships, tuition assistance, or cash payments.



Ask your Support Specialist for help!

**Call the Solution Center at 877-569-3198 or email cagsstudentservices@macu.edu.
Our hours are 8 am - 6 pm M-Th and 8 am - 5 pm on Friday, Central Standard Time.**