

AS OF January 7, 2026
THIS INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
AND WILL BE POSTED AT <https://chss.sfsu.edu/policies-and-deadlines>

College of Health & Social Sciences

Spring 2026

From: Dean Andreana Clay and Associate Dean John Elia

Welcome to the College of Health & Social Sciences,

This section is to inform you of the College and University policies that may affect you. Knowledge of these deadlines and policies (viewed at <http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/policies-procedures/>) will help you navigate the bureaucracy of the University while helping you succeed and graduate in a timely manner. Policies can be intimidating sometimes, but they ensure an equitable, consistent and reliable process for each student.

Please review this information for more detail on these policies. *Approval of a petition from the instructor and/or Department Chair does not constitute automatic approval from the Associate Dean.* If you have any questions about how these policies specifically apply to your situation, please contact the Associate Dean's Office at assocdean@sfsu.edu or (415) 405-3533.

University & College Policies & Procedures

Syllabi are to incorporate the Academic Senate Policy and University Bulletin regarding finals week, deadlines or withdrawals, late adds, CR/NC option and information related to course registration and Disability Programs and Resource Center. A sample listing of the required policies is shown below:

When is the deadline to drop a class?

The last day to drop a class without a 'W' grade is Monday, February 16 by 11:59 PM.

Note: [Prorated refund](#) may apply even when dropping by the drop deadline. Click [here](#) for more information or contact the Bursar's Office at (415) 338-1281.

What if I wish to withdraw from a course after the drop deadline?

In compliance with Academic Senate policy #[S20-196](#), students have the right to initiate a course(s) withdrawal during one of the deadlines outlined below. A maximum of **18 units** can be withdrawn, and a course can only be repeated once after receiving a failing grade.

*Although instructors are **encouraged** (not required) to drop students by the Wednesday, February 11th faculty drop deadline (either for not attending the first class meeting, not*

participating in the course during the first three weeks, and/or not meeting course criteria), **dropping a course is ultimately the student's responsibility at SF State** ([SF State Bulletin](#) and [#S20-196](#)). However, if extenuating circumstances caused you to miss a deadline, please consult with your instructor or the Department Chair.

Per Academic Senate policy [#S20-196](#), faculty are strongly encouraged to define course participation required during the drop period in the course syllabus and to instructor-drop all students who do not participate as required before the end of the faculty drop period, which is Wednesday, February 11th.

Courses that are primarily or exclusively taught using an asynchronous online learning mode during the drop period are required to have at least one activity that captures participation due during the drop period. Students who do not complete these initial activities may be instructor-dropped for non-attendance.

Important note: Withdrawing from a course does not release students from any financial obligation owed for fees, tuition or financial aid. Before submitting a request for withdrawal, please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@sfsu.edu or (415) 338-7000 or the Bursar's Office at (415) 338-1281 to fully understand any potential financial implications before withdrawing.

Deadline 1: Withdrawal from Classes or University for Serious and Compelling Reasons

Withdrawal from Classes or University
For Serious and Compelling Reasons

Tuesday, February 17
– **Monday, April 20**

During the first withdrawal period from the fourth week through the twelfth week of instruction, “*withdrawal from a course will be permissible, for serious and compelling reasons, as defined and specified by the student*” ([#S20-196](#)) and will require the approval of the instructor and department chair/program director. Documentation is not required at this time. The student will receive a ‘W’ grade if the withdrawal is approved.

To withdraw from a course, students may initiate a withdrawal request on their Student Center/Gateway. Instructions and more information can be found at <https://registrar.sfsu.edu/withdrawal>.

Students wishing to withdraw from all their courses for the current semester during the first withdrawal period should complete the process outlined in the link above for all courses enrolled and then submit an appeal to exclude the “W” grades from the 18-unit withdrawal limit. Instructions and more information can be found under “Appeal of the Deadline to

Submit a Request for Withdrawal from Semester (All Courses) at <https://registrar.sfsu.edu/withdrawal>.

Deadline 2: Withdrawal from Classes or University by Exception for Documented Serious and Compelling Reasons

Withdrawal from Classes or University

By Exception for Documented Serious and Compelling Reasons

Tuesday, April 21 – Friday, May 15

During the second withdrawal period from the thirteenth week through the last day of instruction, *“withdrawals shall not be permitted except in cases, such as accident or serious illness, where the cause of withdrawal is due to circumstances clearly beyond the student’s control and the assignment of an Incomplete is not practicable. Withdrawals of this sort may involve total withdrawal from the university or may involve only withdrawal from one or more courses, except that course grade and credit or an Incomplete may be assigned for courses in which sufficient work has been completed to permit an evaluation to be made.”* (#S20-196).

Requests to withdraw during this time must also be approved by the Dean of Division of Undergraduate Education and Academic Planning and student must attach supporting documentation. The student will receive a ‘WM’ grade if the withdrawal is approved and this will not count towards the 18 unit maximum for withdrawals (shows as ‘W’ on transcript).

The student may appeal withdrawal decisions by the last day of finals. Contact the Registrar’s at records@sfsu.edu or (415) 338-2350 for more information.

For a complete reading of the Senate policy, please refer to:

<https://sfsu.policystat.com/policy/10929580/latest>

How do I request for a withdrawal from a course taken in a previous semester?

Students who wish to request for a withdrawal from a course taken in a previous semester must follow the instructions outlined on the Registrar’s website under “Appeal of the Deadline to Submit A Request for Withdrawal From An Individual Course” at <https://registrar.sfsu.edu/withdrawal>. The request must include a signed [appeal form](#), a brief statement, supporting documentation, and approval from instructor and department chair/program director (email is fine). Students should submit all materials to the Registrar’s at registrar@sfsu.edu or by fax at (415) 338 - 0588.

*Please be advised that appeal requests submitted without proper documentation or which are based on circumstances within your control cannot be reviewed and will be returned or denied.

How do I take a course for Credit or No Credit (CR/NC) Grade?

Please first check the course description in the Bulletin and consult with your major advisor to determine if the class can be taken for CR/NC as some major requirements require letter grade only. If CR/NC is permitted, then you may change your grading option via your SF State Gateway until Friday, May 8th. Please visit <https://registrar.sfsu.edu/deadlines> for the most accurate dates/deadlines.

Senate policy S23-305 states that letter grades are not convertible to CR/NC and CR/NC grades are not convertible to letter grades after the deadline so the Associate Dean will not approve requests for changes if you miss this date. Please be mindful of this and consult with your instructor or major advisor if you are considering changing the grading option.

What if I want to add a class after registration closes?

During the first two weeks of classes which is Monday, January 26 until Sunday, February 8, permission numbers are **not** required to add *most classes (if seats are available)*. If permission number is required to add, please obtain a permission number from your instructor and add the class via your SF State Gateway. Please find more information on adding with permission number on the Registrar's website here: <https://registrar.sfsu.edu/whentousepermission>.

Starting the third week which is Monday, February 9 through Monday, February 16 until 11:59 p.m., permission numbers will be required to late add *all classes*. Faculty can give you access to [Canvas](#), but faculty cannot add you into a class, so you need to properly enroll via Gateway.

Important note: Students do not need to officially add a class in which they currently have an "I" or Incomplete in (unless they want to retake this class with a different instructor). Please consult with your original instructor or an advisor if you have questions.

If the period to late add passes, a [Waiver of College Regulations Petition](#) must be submitted to the home college of the course requested. This petition must be signed by the student, instructor, and department chair/program director. The completed petition should be emailed to assocdean@sfsu.edu.

You can find instructions on how to add, drop, swap, change grading option and withdraw at <https://registrar.sfsu.edu/guides>.

How do I know if any changes in my registration went through?

Always check your registration on your SF State Gateway after making any changes and before deadlines to ensure you are registered properly for your classes. It is always your responsibility to ensure your schedule is correct, even if the instructor indicates they will drop you. All deadlines will be strictly adhered to by the instructor, the Department Chair, and the CHSS Associate Dean.

When are finals?

According to Academic Senate policy [S19-242](#), the fall and spring semesters are 17 weeks and include 15 weeks of direct instruction, one week of recess, and an optional final exam week. It is at the discretion of the instructor to determine whether there will be a class meeting during finals week so please check with your instructor. The final examination schedule is located at: <https://academicresources.sfsu.edu/final-examination-schedule-fall-2025>.

Please review your class schedule for final examination conflicts and contact your instructor for exam options.

Where do I go if I have a concern or issue?

For matters to be handled in a timely manner, it is important to follow the proper channels by first connecting with the instructor or department involved. If you are uncertain of what steps to take, you can also contact the Associate Dean's Office for a consultation prior to taking action as we are here to support your success. If the issue has not been resolved at the department level, please contact the Associate Dean's Office by emailing assocdean@sfsu.edu or calling (415) 405-3533.

For some tips on how to communicate to faculty and staff, please visit the Office of Student Conduct's webpage at <http://conduct.sfsu.edu/communicating-faculty-and-staff>. More information can also be found at <https://vpsaem.sfsu.edu/student-concerns-and-complaints>.

What resources are available to me on campus?

Disability access

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Services Building and can be reached by telephone (audio at (415) 338-2472, video at (415) 335-7210), or by email at dprc@sfsu.edu.

Student disclosures of sexual violence

SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the Title IX Coordinator by completing the report form available at <http://titleix.sfsu.edu>, emailing vpsaem@sfsu.edu or calling (415) 338- 2032. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact:
The SAFE Place - (415) 338-2208; <https://dos.sfsu.edu/safeplace>

Counseling and Psychological Services Center - (415) 338- 2208; <http://psysservs.sfsu.edu/>

For more information on your rights and available resources: <http://titleix.sfsu.edu> and <https://titleix.sfsu.edu/resources>

Counseling and Mental Health Services

Counseling provides an opportunity for students to explore personal problems or concerns in a brief treatment model. Students come to CAPS for reasons as varied as the people themselves; personal problems involving relations with parents or peers, emotional or social difficulties, relationship conflicts, anxiety or depression, sexuality and orientation, concerns about academic progress or direction, and other issues. Appointments can be made in person at the Student Services Building Rm 205 and/or calling (415) 338-2208. <https://psysservs.sfsu.edu/>

Undergraduate Advising Center (ADM 211): Provides academic advising and support to ALL undergraduate students. For more information, visit: <https://advising.sfsu.edu/>.

CHSS Department Advising: For more information on department advising, visit: <https://chss.sfsu.edu/advising> to learn more about how to contact a major advisor in your department.

*For other resources to support student success such as **tutoring, career and leadership development, library, and basic needs**, visit: <https://www.sfsu.edu/student-success.html> to learn more.*

Academic Honesty & Integrity

Academic integrity, the ethical presentation of one's own work in accordance with the rules established for the class, is required. Instances of academic misconduct will be reported to the College in which the course is housed, the Division of Graduate Studies (if a graduate student), and the Office of Student Conduct with the report being kept in those offices until a student earns his/her degree. Any instances of cheating, deceit, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, unauthorized altering of records or submitting false documents, unauthorized collaboration, unauthorized submission of work previously given credit, or

other forms of academic misconduct will be assigned a grade penalty, likely an F or a grade of zero. Failing one or more assignments or examinations for reasons of academic integrity violations may result in a final class grade of F. Students may not withdraw from classes in which they have committed academic misconduct. Consequences for violations of academic integrity may exceed an F on the assignment, examination, or class as determined by the Academic Integrity Review Committee ([#S22-298](#)).

In addition to attending to one's own actions, the Standards for Student Conduct require that students who witness academic dishonesty notify their faculty/ instructor, department chair, or the Office of Student Conduct. Supporting academic integrity enhances the reputation of the University and the value attributed to degrees awarded by the University ([#S22-298](#)).

Students may not post or use the recordings in any form (e.g., audio transcript, chat transcript, screen shots) in any other setting (e.g., social media) outside of the class, for any purpose. Students who violate this will be subject to student discipline, up to and including expulsion ([#S23-264](#)).

Students are not allowed to capture audio, photos, or video from class sessions on their own devices without explicit permission from the instructor or unless specifically requested by DPRC. Recordings cannot be shared by students without explicit consent of the faculty member and anyone present ([#S23-264](#)).