

Thinking of dropping a class?

If you are thinking about dropping a class that's currently on your schedule, there are a few things that you should keep in mind.

- First, have you spoken with the professor? There may still be an opportunity to raise your grade between now and the end of the semester. What would your professor advise?
- Also think about whether receiving extra help with the class make a difference. Would assistance with writing papers, test taking, etc. improve your performance? If so, there are [campus resources](#) that could help.
- Have you spoken with your parents? They may have feedback about your decision as well.

How will it show up on my transcript, or alter my GPA?

Any drop made at this point in the semester is considered a "withdrawal" from the course, and so a "W" of some kind will appear on your transcript (see more about WP and WF below). A "W" does not impact your GPA at all, and if you're struggling in a class, it's far better to have a W than a D or an F.

Does dropping a class impact grad school, getting a job, or financial aid?

It depends. Dropping a class from time to time is perfectly fine, but you want to make sure that over the course of your four years at JMU that you don't develop a *habit* of withdrawing from courses. Future employers or graduate programs may frown upon this if they notice a pattern. Your JMU financial aid and scholarships can also be impacted by a pattern of withdrawals. If in doubt, speak with a staff member in [Financial Aid](#) to see how your "Satisfactory Academic Progress" could be affected by a withdrawal.

Will I need to retake the class later?

It depends. If it was a class that counted towards a major you were considering, then yes. If it was a class that just counted towards Gen Ed, you could take a different class from that cluster to make up that requirement later.

Will this delay graduation?

No, but you'll need to do some makeup work. You need to have an average of 5 classes each semester to graduate on time in 4 years. So if you drop a class, at some point you will either need to add a summer class, or take 6 classes in a semester to get back on track. (If you had prior credit from AP, IB, or Dual Enrollment though this would not apply to you and you would not need to take an extra class to make up for the one that you dropped.)

Who needs to be in on this decision?

I encourage you to talk with your parents/guardians about the decision to drop a class, just to make sure that you're on the same page with this decision. Your [tuition at JMU remains the same](#) when you take 12 or more credit hours, so a withdrawal from a class does not mean a refund.

How do I drop a class, once I've decided?

It depends where you are in the semester. Go to the [Enrollment Calendar](#) and look for the date to "withdraw with W grade" for this semester.

- If it's before the "withdraw with W grade" date, you don't need your professor's or my permission to drop a class, you can do so on your own in MyMadison (under Student Center > Academics > Enroll).
- If it's after the "withdraw with W grade" date, you'll need permission to withdraw from a class, and a professor might say no. You would receive a WP or a WF if the professor approves the withdrawal, based on whether you were *passing* or *failing* the class when you left. Because there's no paperwork involved in this arrangement you make with your professor, it's smart to send an email after your conversation with him/her recounting what was agreed upon and thanking them. This way you'll at least have a paper trail. The professor will mark your grade as WP or WF when they do their final grades at the end of the semester.