

The Difference Between Drops and Withdrawals

What Is the Difference Between A Drop and Withdraw?

A **drop** occurs during the refund period and does not appear on your transcript. If you drop a course, your enrollment will be reduced and the amount of financial aid you are eligible for can change.

A **withdrawal** occurs after the refund period and will appear on your transcript as a “**W**” grade. If you withdraw from a course, your enrollment is locked and will not change, unless:

- You completely withdraw officially/unofficially from the college. (All your enrolled courses)
- You never begin attendance in the course(s).

What Is the Difference Between Officially and Unofficially Withdrawing?

Officially Withdrawing

When students stop attending or academically participating in a course, they must report this information to the Office of Admissions and Records (OAR) immediately by officially removing themselves from the course. This can occur during the drop or withdrawal periods of the term.

For example: Abby is enrolled and begins attending COM 101 that meets from Aug. 24, 2021 to Dec. 18, 2021. On Sept. 30, 2021, Abby is in a car accident and is advised by her doctors not to return to school. Abby logs into her Panther Portal and “officially” withdraws from the course. Since this occurred after the refund period, a “W” grade will appear on her transcript and Return of Title IV (R2T4) calculation will be performed since this is the only course Abby is enrolled in. (*See R2T4 Policy for more information*).

Unofficially Withdrawing

When students stop attending or academically participating in a course and fail to remove themselves from the roster, the student has “unofficially withdrew” from the course. This can occur during the drop or withdrawal periods of the term.

For example: Abby is enrolled and begins attending COM 101 that meets from Aug. 24, 2021 to Dec. 18, 2021. On Sept. 30, 2021, Abby is in a car accident and is advised by her doctors

not to return to school. However, Abby forgets to withdraw from her COM 101 course and is still listed as enrolled. Abby's last class attended was Sept. 26, 2021. Her professor last received a homework assignment dated Sept. 27, 2021. Since Abby didn't notify her school she would not be returning, the school determines that Abby "unofficially withdrew" on Sept. 27, 2021 (the last log of academic activity).

