



W's on your Transcript:

I am currently struggling with a class I am taking. I am not likely to get a good grade. Should I withdrawal from the course and take a “W” on my transcript? How does the Admissions committee evaluate a “W” on a transcript?

Ws or Withdrawals on transcripts are evaluated with different perspectives:

If a student has withdrawals “sprinkled” throughout their transcript, especially with frequency, it appears as a red flag, because it may indicate a pattern of irresponsible student behavior. We have a lock-step program here at SCCO. What this means is that your curriculum and lecture schedule is predetermined—you do not choose your schedule as you did in your undergraduate program. In a Lock-Step system, this behavior of frequent W's would result in failure.

One or two Ws on a transcript would need explanation, but would not necessarily be viewed as a red flag. We realize that certain occurrences such as illness, family situations, and finances can affect a student's performance and may necessitate withdrawal from a course; however, it may be necessary to provide an explanation for these Ws.

If you are getting a poor grade in a class, make ALL attempts to raise that grade before you opt for the “W. Go to the professor for counsel. Ask what you can do for extra credit if at all possible. Withdrawing from a class may be your only option if you are failing. But, be advised that if you are establishing a track record of Ws on your transcript, you will not present as a desirable candidate to an admissions committee.

Don't be a passive student when you know a class is not going well. Talk to your professor and consider a tutor. Exercise the withdrawal option as a last resort. Understand that the commitment you will need to make to an optometric program should not include a “W mentality!”

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