

Title: Academic Standing

Category: Academic Affairs

Responsible Cabinet Member: Provost

Purpose: To establish consistent standards for academic standing, probation, suspension and dismissal that ensure academic integrity, fairness and compliance with accreditation requirements while providing students appropriate notice, opportunity for improvement and the right to appeal consistent with University due process policies.

Scope: Applies to all undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in credit-bearing programs at the University. (Professional programs may have different academic standards, please refer to the program handbook and the Special College Rules Policy.)

Definitions:

- Good Academic Standing: Enrollment status indicating satisfactory academic progress.
- Academic Probation: A warning status indicating the student has not met minimum academic standards.
- Academic Suspension: Temporary separation from the University due to unsatisfactory academic performance.
- Academic Dismissal: Separation from an academic program due to failure to meet academic standards. Dismissal may be program-specific unless otherwise determined by University policy.
- Academic Unit: College, school or program with authority over academic standards.
- Reinstatement: Approved return to enrollment following suspension or dismissal.

Policy

The University establishes minimum academic standards governing continued enrollment, academic progression and eligibility for graduation. Students who fail to meet these standards may be placed on academic probation, suspended or dismissed in accordance with published criteria.

Academic standing determinations are applied consistently and equitably across programs and are recorded on the student's official academic record. Students retain the right to appeal academic standing decisions through the University's established academic appeals process.

General Policy Principles (All Students)

- Academic standing decisions are based on published, objective criteria (e.g., GPA thresholds, progress benchmarks).
- Decisions are applied consistently and equitably across students and units.
- Students are entitled to notice, explanation and appeal consistent with the University's academic code and due process policies.
- Academic standing actions are distinct from disciplinary sanctions.
- The Office of the University Registrar establishes an End-of-Term Academic Standing Processing Schedule that allows sufficient time for colleges to review academic standing decisions, notify students and allow students the opportunity to appeal prior to the start of the next academic term.
- Final academic standing determinations are recorded on the student's official academic record.

Procedures

Academic Standing Procedures: Review of Academic Performance

- **Undergraduate:** Academic standing is reviewed at the end of each academic term. The Registrar calculates cumulative GPA and identifies students who fall below minimum standards, and colleges are notified of students placed on probation or subject to suspension.
 - Criteria: An undergraduate student shall be placed on academic probation if:
 - The cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0; or
 - The student earns a term GPA below 2.0 for two (2) consecutive academic terms, regardless of cumulative GPA.
 - A student placed on probation under the second criterion shall be removed from probation upon earning a term GPA of 2.0 or higher and achieving a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0.
 - The Summer and Winter terms are subject to the same probation provisions as the Fall and Spring terms.
 - Removal:
 - For students placed on probation for a cumulative GPA below 2.0, the student is removed from probation after raising the cumulative GPA to at least 2.0.
 - A student placed on probation under the second criterion (two consecutive terms below a 2.0) shall be removed from probation: upon earning a term GPA of 2.0 or higher and achieving a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0.
- **Graduate:** Academic standing is reviewed at least once per academic term. Graduate programs evaluate GPA, milestone completion and academic progress. Program directors or Directors of Graduate Studies (DGS) initiate standing actions. Additionally, graduate programs shall provide annual written evaluations of student progress. These evaluations may be used to document academic standing decisions, including probation or dismissal.
 - Graduate students must maintain:
 - A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0; and
 - Satisfactory progress as defined by the graduate program.
 - Graduate programs, consistent with University policy, may establish additional academic performance requirements specific to degree level, progression benchmarks, qualifying exams, time-to-degree expectations and other program-specific criteria beyond minimum institutional standards. Any additional academic performance requirements higher than the minimum institutional standards must be approved for the program through the curricular approval process.
 - Failure to satisfy probation conditions may result in dismissal from the program.
 - Academic probation does not automatically affect graduate funding appointments. Funding decisions should not be used as a substitute for academic standing determinations.
 - Graduate academic standing decisions are program-driven and subject to oversight by the Provost; probation and dismissal actions may be reviewed to ensure consistency with institutional policy.
- **Research Progress Evaluation:** Students enrolled in thesis, dissertation, qualifying examination or dissertation residency courses that are graded on an S/UN basis must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress each enrollment period. A grade of UN constitutes evidence of unsatisfactory progress and may result in enhanced monitoring, a required progress improvement plan or additional academic action under this policy. Repeated UN grades may constitute grounds for academic dismissal when the program determines that the student is no longer making reasonable progress toward degree completion.

Notification: Students must receive written notification of any academic standing action, including probation, suspension or dismissal. Notification shall normally occur within seven (7) business days following final academic standing determinations.

Academic Probation

- **Undergraduate Probation**

- Students are notified by their college in writing of probation status.
- Notification includes:
 - Current GPA;
 - Requirements to return to good standing; and
 - Available academic support resources.
- Students may be subject to enrollment limitations of no more than 15 credit hours per semester while on probation.

- **Graduate Probation**

- Students are notified by their graduate program through probation letters outlining:
 - Deficiencies;
 - Required corrective actions;
 - Timeline (typically one term); and
 - Consequences for failing to make required corrective actions.
 - Probation letters may also identify program responsibilities necessary to support student progress, including advising arrangements or required program resources.
- Graduate probation is typically limited in duration.
- Graduate probation may result from institutional GPA thresholds determined centrally or from program-level evaluations of academic progress.

Academic Suspension

- **Undergraduate Suspension:** Imposed when a student fails to return to good standing following probation and the suspension period is no less than one academic term (excluding summer and winter intersession). Students must petition for reinstatement.
 - An undergraduate student shall be academically suspended if:
 - The student fails to earn a 2.0 term GPA during any academic term while on probation;
 - The cumulative GPA remains below 2.0 for three (3) consecutive academic terms; or
 - The GPA is below 0.6 after the first academic term, provided the GPA is based on at least nine (9) hours of letter-graded coursework.
 - In cases where suspension eligibility exists, the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled may continue the student on academic probation when the individual circumstances warrant such action.
 - A student academically suspended from the University may not enroll in courses, nor take examinations for University credit, during the period of suspension.
 - A student academically suspended a second time shall not be readmitted to the University except in unusual circumstances and only upon recommendation of the dean of the college in which the student seeks enrollment.
 - Once reported to the Office of the University Registrar, a suspension may be rescinded only in the event of an error in the determination of eligibility, an official grade change affecting suspension status or exceptional circumstances as determined by the dean.
- **Graduate Suspension**
 - Graduate programs may determine that dismissal is appropriate rather than suspension where permitted by approved program policies. If suspension is used, it must be defined in writing and include conditions for return.
 - Except in extraordinary circumstances, graduate students must be placed on academic probation and provided an opportunity to correct deficiencies before dismissal from a program.

Academic Dismissal

- **Undergraduate**
 - Dismissal may occur after repeated suspension or failure to meet reinstatement conditions.
 - Written notification must include appeal rights.
- **Graduate**
 - Graduate dismissal is recommended by the program and approved through college processes in conjunction with the Graduate School.
 - Dismissal is program-specific unless otherwise specified.
 - Except in extraordinary circumstances, graduate students must be placed on academic probation and provided an opportunity to correct academic deficiencies before dismissal from a program.

Reinstatement

- **After Suspension:** A student academically suspended must remain out of the University for at least one (1) academic terms, excluding the Winter Intercession, before seeking reinstatement. To request reinstatement, the student must submit a written petition to the college of enrollment by the published deadline. The petition must include:
 - An explanation of the circumstances that contributed to the student's prior academic performance;
 - Evidence of readiness to resume academic study; and
 - A plan for academic improvement.

The college or academic unit shall review the petition and may approve reinstatement with conditions designed to support academic success. Conditions may include, but are not limited to:

- Enrollment limitations or reduced course load.
- Required academic advising or support services.
- Periodic progress reviews.

Students approved for reinstatement return under the conditions established by the academic unit and remain subject to all academic standing policies. Failure to satisfy reinstatement conditions may result in further academic action, including renewed suspension or dismissal.

Upon reinstatement, the student shall be placed on academic probation and shall be subject to final dismissal if:

- The student incurs any additional academic deficit while on probation; or
 - The requirements for removal from probation are not met within three (3) academic terms following reinstatement.
- **After Dismissal:** Academic dismissal represents termination of enrollment in a specific academic program due to failure to meet established academic standards. Students dismissed from a program may petition for reinstatement only after demonstrating substantial evidence of readiness to meet academic expectations. Petitions must be submitted to the college or academic unit responsible for the program.

Reinstatement following dismissal typically requires:

- A formal written petition explaining the circumstances leading to dismissal.
- Documentation of actions taken to address academic deficiencies.

- A proposed plan demonstrating the student's ability to successfully complete program requirements.

Reinstatement following dismissal is not automatic and is granted only under exceptional circumstances. Approval requires review by the academic unit and any additional institutional approval required by University policy. Furthermore, reinstatement after an academic offense must be approved by the Academic Appeals Panel (AAP) and the Office of the Provost.

If reinstatement is granted, the academic unit may impose specific conditions for continued enrollment. These conditions must be communicated in writing to the student. Dismissal from one program does not automatically preclude admission to a different academic program, subject to the admission standards of that program. Students readmitted after an interruption of two (2) or more continuous years may elect Academic Forgiveness in accordance with the University Academic Forgiveness Policy.

Appeals

Students may appeal an academic standing decision, including probation, suspension, dismissal, denial of reinstatement or conditions imposed upon reinstatement, on one (1) or more of the following grounds:

- Procedural error;
- New information not reasonably available when the decision was made;
- inconsistency with published University, college or program academic standards; or
- Documented exceptional circumstances when the applicable policy permits discretionary relief.

The written appeal must identify the decision being challenged, the grounds for appeal, the requested outcome and supporting documentation.

- Undergraduate students must submit an appeal through the established process of their college of enrollment within seven (7) business days of written notification.
- Graduate students must submit an appeal through the established process of the college in which the graduate program is housed within seven (7) business days of written notification. The graduate program may respond to the appeal but shall not serve as the sole decision-maker.

Appeals shall be reviewed by a dean, committee or other designated reviewer who was not solely responsible for the original decision. The college may affirm, modify, rescind or return the decision for further consideration and shall provide the student with a written outcome, normally within seven (7) business days of receiving a complete appeal.

During a timely appeal, the student retains the right to attend classes and pursue the academic program, subject to limitations involving clinical competence, patient or client contact, external placements or other approved requirements.

After completing the applicable college appeal process, a student alleging a violation of academic rights, University procedures or approved academic standards may seek further review through the Academic Ombud and AAP in accordance with University policy. Appeals involving financial aid, assistantships, student conduct, immigration status or other nonacademic matters are governed

separately. For additional information on due process and appeal to the Ombud, please see the Academic Integrity Policy.