

Date: February 8, 2023

To: Academic Policies Committee  
Dr. Abby Hemmerich, Chair

From: Academic Affairs (contact Mary Hoffman)

RE: Proposed Revision to Academic Standing Policy

Academic Affairs recommends the following policy changes to the academic standing policy at UW-Eau Claire. Prior to making this recommendation, we have consulted with the academic associate deans, academic deans, and leaders in records and registration and admissions. Academic Affairs believes the updated policy will support student success by using more success-focused language and by giving students a second chance after a single poor semester performance. At the same time, it continues to make sure students receive needed academic support and are required to leave the university if unable to make progress toward academic success, thus avoiding further academic difficulty and expense.

Summary of key changes:

- A student with a semester GPA below 1.0 will be placed on probation rather than on suspension.
- Students will not enter the university with an academic standing (they may currently enter on probation)
- Language is slightly revised to be more supportive. “Academic Concern” rather than “Academic Warning” and “does not” rather than “failed to,” for example
- Addition of a table to help illustrate how a student would experience changes in academic standing
- Language on where to seek support updated for accuracy

Explanation of change:

- Students who have a single poor semester will have an additional chance to make academic progress prior to being suspended
- Because students below a 1.00 semester GPA will be placed on Academic Probation rather than Academic Concern, they will not be allowed to go to a third semester without significant academic progress, thus preventing them from earning an unrecoverable GPA and/or accumulating debt without academic progress
- Academic standing can be understood as a mechanism for identifying and supporting students rather than as a punitive process (primarily the language changes)
- By not admitting students on probation, they are allowed time to transition to UW-Eau Claire without the risk of being suspended at the conclusion of their first semester

Support for students not in good academic standing:

- Academic Concern: Spring 2023: Plan is in place for 5 contacts with students on Academic Concern: Students receive communication from associate dean and academic advisor prior to semester, communication from academic advisor in week 4, communication from advisor following progress report if needed after week 6, and after midterm grades if needed. Other than initial associate dean and advisor contact, there has been no systematic contact with students in this academic standing prior to this semester.
- Academic Probation: Associate deans and academic advisors reach out prior to semester. Students are encouraged to enroll in a study skills class, academic advisors follow-up on progress reports and midterm grades as needed. Additional methods of support are under discussion with the guidance of associate deans who work most closely with these students.
- Probation after Suspension: Associate deans communicate with students prior to the beginning of the semester to make suggestions which may include limiting credits enrolled and enrolling in a study skills course (GEN 201). Students meet with academic advisors to adjust schedules. Additional methods of support are under discussion with the guidance of associate deans who work most closely with these students.

**Current Academic Standing Policy:** (University Catalog:

<https://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-regulations/academic-standing-forgiveness/>)

## Academic Standing and Progress—Current Policy

The University expects each undergraduate (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or special student) to maintain a level of academic achievement consistent with University standards and to make reasonable progress toward the completion of a chosen curriculum.

The policies and regulations outlined below define the minimum academic standards of the University. Any College of the University may set a higher standard for admission, retention, or graduation from a degree program.

**Good academic standing.** The definition of good academic standing includes University standards for satisfactory academic progress during a semester. Academic standing is determined twice each year, once at the end of the fall semester and once at the end of the spring semester. It is not determined at the end of Summer Session or Winterim Session.

A student is in good academic standing at the end of a semester if all the following conditions are met:

1. The student's resident GPA is 2.00 or higher.
2. The student has earned a semester GPA of 2.00 or higher.

NOTE 1: An excessive number of withdrawals from courses may impact students' eligibility for acceptance into certain major programs and most types of financial aid. All students should therefore consult their advisors before withdrawing from courses.

**Academic Warning.** An Academic Warning is the first formal notification that a student has failed to meet one or more of the requirements for good academic standing. The notation "Academic Warning" is placed on the student's record at the end of the first semester in which any one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. The student's resident GPA at the end of the semester is less than 2.00.
2. The student's semester GPA is less than 2.00, but 1.00 or higher. (See Suspension, below.)

Only one Academic Warning is issued to a student. (See Probation, below.) Students who receive this notification should immediately consult their advisor(s) or the Student Affairs and Dean of Students Office, so that they may obtain assistance in overcoming their academic difficulties.

**Probation.** After receiving one Academic Warning, students will be placed on probation at the end of any subsequent semester in which they again fail to achieve good academic standing. The period of probation is one semester. Students must regain good academic standing by the end of the probationary semester in order to continue in the University. They will be removed from probation upon regaining good academic standing. Students may be placed on probation multiple times should their academic standing require it.

**Suspension.** A student will be suspended from the University under either or both of the following conditions:

1. At the end of a semester of probation, the student has failed to regain good academic standing.
2. At the end of any semester, the student has a semester GPA of less than 1.00. (This regulation applies regardless of the student's resident GPA.)

A student who has been suspended is ineligible to continue in the University for the period of one semester. Any degree-seeking student who wishes to return to the University after the expiration of the suspension must make formal application for readmittance through the Admissions Office. Special Students who wish to return to the University after the expiration of a suspension need to reapply. Readmittance cannot be guaranteed. If the student is readmitted and fails to regain good academic standing by the end of the first semester after readmittance, a second suspension of one semester will be incurred.

A student who has been suspended for academic reasons may request a review by a faculty committee of the College in which the student was enrolled. If the student can show that extenuating circumstances existed, the committee may recommend to the Associate Dean of the College that the student be reinstated.

Students on suspension may attend the UW-Eau Claire Winterim and Summer Sessions (including the Three-Week Summer Session) as a special student for the purpose of improving their academic records. A suspended student may not enroll as a special student at UW-Eau Claire during the fall or spring semesters until the suspension has expired. A student suspended from UW-Eau Claire may encounter difficulty in attempting to enroll at another institution.

**Policies applying to transfer students.** The credits transferred from other colleges and universities are used to determine the classification of a student as freshman, sophomore, etc. Transfer credits are not used, however, in computing the UW-Eau Claire resident GPA which determines the student's academic standing in subsequent semesters at UW-Eau Claire ([see also Grade Point Requirements, under University Graduation Requirements](#)).

A transfer student admitted in good standing is governed by the policies set forth under Academic Standing and Progress.

A transfer student admitted on probation will be removed from probation if in the first semester at UW-Eau Claire the student achieves good academic standing. Thereafter the student's status is determined on the same basis as that of a student who was admitted in good standing and who has received an Academic Warning at UW-Eau Claire.

A transfer student admitted on probation will be suspended at the end of the first semester at UW-Eau Claire if at that time the student has failed to achieve good academic standing.

**Policies applying to freshmen admitted on probation.** A freshman admitted on probation will be removed from probation if in the first semester at UW-Eau Claire the student achieves good academic standing. Thereafter the student's status is determined on the same basis as that of a student admitted in good standing.

A freshman admitted on probation will be suspended at the end of the first semester if at that time the student has not achieved good academic standing.

## Proposed New Policy:

# Academic Standing and Forgiveness

## Academic Standing and Progress

The University expects each undergraduate (frosh, sophomore, junior, senior, or special student) to maintain a level of academic achievement consistent with University standards and to make reasonable progress toward the completion of a chosen curriculum.

The policies and regulations outlined below define the minimum academic standards of the University. Any College of the University may set a higher standard for admission, retention, or graduation from a degree program.

**Good academic standing.** The definition of good academic standing includes University standards for satisfactory academic progress during a semester. Academic standing is determined twice each year, once at the end of the fall semester and once at the end of the spring semester. It is not determined at the end of Summer Session or Winterim Session.

A student is in good academic standing at the end of a semester if all the following conditions are met:

1. The student's resident GPA is 2.00 or higher.
2. The student has earned a semester GPA of 2.00 or higher.

**Academic Concern.** An Academic Concern is the first formal notification that a student has not met one or more of the requirements for good academic standing. The notation "Academic Concern" is placed on the student's unofficial record at the end of the first semester in which any one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. The student's resident GPA at the end of the semester is less than 2.00.
2. The student's semester GPA is less than 2.00, but 1.00 or higher. (See Probation, below.)

Only one Academic Concern is issued to a student. (See Probation, below.) Students who receive this notification should immediately consult their advisor(s) or the associate dean of their college, so that they may obtain support in achieving academic success.

**Academic Probation.** Students will be placed on probation if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. After receiving one Academic Concern, students do not achieve good academic standing at the end of any subsequent semester.
2. At the end of any semester, the student has a semester GPA of less than 1.00.

The period of probation is one semester. Students must regain good academic standing by the end of the probationary semester to continue in the University. They will be removed from probation upon regaining good academic standing. Students may be placed on probation multiple times should their academic standing require it.

**Academic Suspension.** A student will be suspended from the University if at the end of a semester of probation, the student has not regained good academic standing.

A student who has been suspended is ineligible to continue in the University for the period of one semester. Any degree-seeking student who wishes to return to the University after the expiration of the suspension must make formal application for readmittance through the Admissions Office. Special Students who wish to return to the University after the expiration of a suspension need to reapply. Readmittance cannot be guaranteed. If the student is readmitted and does not regain good academic standing by the end of the first semester after readmittance, a second suspension of one semester will be incurred.

**Appeal of Academic Suspension:** A student who has been suspended for academic reasons may request a review by a faculty committee of the College in which the student was enrolled. If the student can show that extenuating circumstances existed, the committee may recommend to the Associate Dean of the College that the student be reinstated.

Students on suspension may attend the UW-Eau Claire Winterim and Summer Sessions (including the Three-Week Summer Session) as a special student for the purpose of improving their academic records. A suspended student may not enroll as a special student at UW-Eau Claire during the fall or spring semesters until the suspension has expired. A student suspended from UW-Eau Claire may encounter difficulty in attempting to enroll at another institution.

New frosh and transfer students are admitted with no standing.

**Policies applying to transfer students.** Academic standing is computed based only on grades in courses taken at UW-Eau Claire (resident GPA). ([see also Grade Point Requirements, under University Graduation Requirements](#)).

