

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD0523F
Date of Senate Approval 11/02/2023

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 3: **Revise the Academic Standing Policy**
Proposed Amendment

Effective Date: Fall 2024

1. **Delete:** On pages 51-52, in the **Academic Policies and Procedures** section of the catalog:

Academic Standing

All students are expected to earn and maintain a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 each semester and to successfully complete (earn) at least 67% of their attempted hours each semester. Successful completion of a course means that a student must earn credit or have credit pending for the course with a grade other than F, U, or W.

Good Academic Standing

Students with a semester and cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and who successfully complete at least 67% of their attempted hours each semester are considered to be in Good Academic Standing.

Academic Warning

Students are placed on Academic Warning if any of the following three conditions occur:

- The student's semester GPA is < 2.0,
- The student's cumulative GPA is < 2.0, or
- The student's successful completion rate (earned hours divided by attempted hours), either for the semester or cumulative, is less than 67%.

Students on Academic Warning are required to complete the requirements of the Academic Success Program in their next Fall or Spring semester of enrollment. To continue enrollment in subsequent semesters, students must either regain Good Academic Standing, as described above, or meet all of the following Criteria for Continued Enrollment each semester until they regain Good Academic Standing.

Criteria for Continued Enrollment while on Academic Warning

- Earn a semester GPA of at least 2.25;
- Successfully complete at least 70% of their attempted hours each semester, AND
- Participate in the Academic Success Program until Good Academic Standing is regained.

Note: Students who earn all F grades or a combination of all F, U, or W grades in a semester will be Suspended without a period of Academic Warning.

Suspension

Students who are on Academic Warning and who fail to either regain Good Academic Standing or meet any of the three criteria necessary for continued enrollment (see above) will be Suspended. Students who earn all F grades or a combination of all F, U, or W grades in a semester will be Suspended. Students who are Suspended are not eligible to enroll at the university during the next regular semester but may return after they have served one semester of suspension.

When students return from Suspension, they are placed on Academic Warning and must meet the criteria outlined for continued enrollment (see above) until they are in Good Academic standing. Failure to meet any of the three expected GPA and semester hour completion rate standards will result in Dismissal from the university.

Dismissal

Students who have served a semester of Suspension and who, while still on Academic Warning, fail to meet the 2.25 semester GPA and 70% successful completion standard will be Dismissed from the university. Students who are dismissed have no right to future enrollment at UNC Asheville and must wait at least three years before appealing to return.

Summary of Academic Standing Rules

Academic Standing	Requirements / Conditions	Expectations and Eligibility to Continue Enrollment
Good Academic Standing	Cumulative and Semester GPA of at least 2.0, <i>and</i> Successful completion of at least 67% of attempted hours each semester.	Student is eligible to continue enrollment.
Academic Warning	Cumulative or Semester GPA <2.0, <i>or</i> Did not successfully complete at least 67% of attempted hours.	Student must regain Good Academic Standing or earn a GPA of 2.25 and successfully complete at least 70% of attempted hours in each subsequent semester until in Good Academic Standing to be eligible to enroll.
Suspension	Has been on Academic Warning, <i>and</i> Did not meet the required 2.25 semester GPA or earn 70% of the hours attempted in the semester <i>OR</i> Earned all F grades or combination of all F, U, or W grades for the semester.	Student is not eligible to enroll in the next regular semester. May return to the university after serving one semester of suspension.

Dismissal	Has served a semester of Suspension, <i>and</i> Did not meet the required 2.25 semester GPA or earn 70% of the hours attempted in the semester.	Student is not eligible to enroll in the university. May appeal for readmission after a period of at least three years.
-----------	---	---

Academic Success Program

The Academic Success Program (ASP) provides students with the support and resources to help them get back on track academically. It is designed to assist students on Academic Warning with recovering from past academic difficulties and maintaining progress toward academic success and degree completion. Questions about the ASP should be directed to the Academic Success Center.

Add: On pages 51-52, in place of deleted entry:

Academic Standing

Academic standing is evaluated for all students at the end of every Fall and Spring semester for which the student was enrolled, based on hours attempted at UNC Asheville only. A student will have one of the following types of academic standing:

Good Academic Standing

To remain in good academic standing, a student must maintain:

- a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 and,
- a semester ratio of earned-to-attempted credit hours of at least two-thirds (67%).

Academic ~~Warning~~ Notice

Students are placed on Academic ~~Warning~~ Notice if either of the following two conditions occurs:

- The student's semester GPA is < 2.0 , or
- The student's completion rate (earned hours divided by attempted hours) for the semester is less than two-thirds (67%).

Academic ~~Warning~~ Notice indicates potential academic problems and is communicated to the student and to the student's advisor and major department(s). Academic ~~Warning~~ Notice notations do not appear on the student's transcript. Students on Academic ~~Warning~~ Notice are required to complete the requirements of the Academic Success Program in the following semester of enrollment, excluding summer.

Academic ~~Probation~~ Warning

A student whose cumulative GPA is below 2.0 is placed on Academic ~~Probation~~ Warning. This status is noted on the student's permanent academic record and transcript for the semester of the evaluation. Students on Academic ~~Probation~~ Warning are required to complete the requirements of the Academic Success Program in their next semester of enrollment, excluding summer.

Academic Suspension

A student on academic ~~probation~~ warning whose cumulative GPA remains below 2.0 at the next evaluation is suspended from the University, unless the student's GPA for that semester is at least 2.3, in which case the student remains on ~~probation~~ warning. The suspension period is one full semester and a readmission application is required to return. Students have the option to appeal their suspension, and information regarding the appeal process is included in the Academic Suspension notification email. Academic suspension is noted on the student's

permanent academic record and transcript. Students returning from Academic Suspension will automatically be placed on Academic **Warning Notice** for at least their first term.

Summary of Academic Standing Rules

Academic Standing	Requirements / Conditions
Good Academic Standing	Cumulative GPA of at least 2.0, and Successful completion of at least two-thirds (67%) of attempted hours each semester.
Academic Warning Notice	Semester GPA <2.0, or Completion rate below two-thirds (67%) of attempted hours.
Academic Probation Warning	Cumulative GPA <2.0
Academic Suspension	Has been on Academic Probation Warning , and cumulative GPA remains below 2.0 (<i>unless the semester GPA is at least 2.3</i>)

Exception for Summer Enrollment

Students who are on academic suspension after the Spring semester are permitted to enroll in Summer classes, but they are not allowed to enroll in the following Fall semester unless they appeal and are approved to continue.

Academic Success Program

The Academic Success Program (ASP) provides students with the support and resources to help them get back on track academically. It is designed to assist students on Academic **Warning Notice and Academic Probation Warning** with recovering from past academic difficulties and maintaining progress toward academic success and degree completion. Questions about the ASP should be directed to the Academic Success Center.

Impact: This document will better align our institutional policy with the [UNC System Office Policy on Fostering Undergraduate Student Success \(FUSS, 400.1.5\)](#) and will also ensure that our written policy accurately reflects our practices in determining academic standing since COVID. It also aligns us better with other UNC system institutions since it is modeled after UNCC policies and centers our policies around academic standing on support and recovery rather than on being punitive and prohibitive to short-term and long-term academic success. Further, it removes the option of dismissing students from the university because of academic performance.

Rationale: This update integrates the academic standing process into our student success and student support structures and aligns it better with the student-centered mission of our institution. During our participation in the Gardner Institute’s Equity in Retention Academy, updating this policy was determined as an actionable step we can take to help reduce structural barriers for student success. A comprehensive review of the existing policy and comparison with the UNC System Office FUSS policy showed that the current policy is more restrictive than is required. Hence, we decided to update the policy so that it is more focused on restorative interventions rather than punitive interceptions of a student’s academic journey (do-over instead of game-over).

The proposed amendment to APC 3 is change Academic Warning to Academic Notice as a first step, and the next step from Academic Probation to Academic Warning. According to the National Academic Advising Association the term “Academic Probation” is antiquated and inappropriate for the inclusive learning environment of today. It contradicts the mission of our colleges and universities as advisors aim to welcome students from the communities most sensitive to the feelings associated with law enforcement, for example. We strive to create a welcoming and encouraging context for equitable student success. However, advisors implicitly criminalize academic struggles when we label students who are on a pathway to academic recovery as somehow felonious. "Academic Notice" is a term used by California State University, Fullerton since Fall 2021, which has since been adopted by schools around the nation. The Academic Policies Committee concurred with the amendment.