



Scholastic Standing and Dismissal By-Law Change Proposal

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What is Scholastic Standing?

- **UConn By-Laws: II.E.13: [II.E.13: Scholastic Probation and Dismissal](#)**
 - “Scholastic probation is an identification of students whose scholastic performance is below University standards.”
 - Currently based on GPA and credits earned at UConn
 - *Multiple probationary statuses/levels:* warning, probation, subject to dismissal, dismissed
- **Potential implications of standing on eligibility:** enrollment as a degree-seeking student, some scholarships and financial aid, extracurricular activities, and graduation
- Approximately 2,000 students each semester with a negative academic status
- Status is assigned for Fall and Spring semesters only

Background: Scholastic Standing

- **Student Support and Covid Impact**

- Increase in the number of students facing academic challenges
- Growth in number of undergraduates in UConn's Scholastic Standing process
- Dismissed students are not returning to UConn
- Need to better support students through clarity, simplicity, and support

- **Comprehensive policy and process review (2022-2024)**

- Office of Undergraduate Advising identified areas of recent changes and challenges; engaged in conversations and working groups with Provost's Office and campus partners; completed literature review, peer/aspirant benchmarking, and data analysis

- **Next steps:**

- Senate By-Law policy changes; procedural/process modifications; pressing need for institutional strategy for retention and support of students experiencing academic challenges

University Senate Bylaw II.E.13: Current Scholastic Standing Rules

Current Academic Standings

Good Standing

- Semester *and* cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher

Scholastic Warning

- First or second semester with a semester grade point average between 1.8 and 1.99

Scholastic Probation

- 23 or fewer credits earned at UConn; semester GPA of lower than 1.8
- 24 or more credits earned at UConn; semester or cumulative GPA of lower than 2.0

Subject to Dismissal

- On probation for two consecutive semesters, not including summer and winter
 - *Caveat: A student who earns a semester GPA of at least 2.3, even if their cumulative GPA is less than 2.0, will not be subject to dismissal.*

Dismissed

- Students who have been academically dismissed

UConn's Scholastic Dismissal Appeal Process

- **Unique from peer institutions**
 - Comprehensive and holistic review of student appeals
 - **Every** student who is “subject to dismissal” is encouraged to appeal their academic dismissal via a formal, written process
- **Occurs twice per year**
 - End of Fall semester (Dec/Jan) and end of Spring semester (May/June)
- **Comprehensive and holistic review** of student appeal submissions and documents includes:
 - Multiple campus partners contribute to process (Center for Students with Disabilities, Academic Achievement Center, Dean of Students Office, faculty/staff letter writers, academic advisors, advising leaders, etc.)
 - Recommendations from academic advising units and/or dean's designees in schools/colleges and regional campuses
 - Office of Undergraduate Advising: reviews student appeals for referrals, sends all official communications about the process, reviews and finalizes retention and dismissal decisions

Proposed By-Law Amendments

1. **Name changes** of overall process and probationary standing(s)
 - Rename 'scholastic standing' to '**academic standing**'
 - Rename 'scholastic probation' to '**academic notice**'

Rationale:

- Improving student clarity in process and understanding of implications
- Acknowledging recent peer-reviewed research, best practices, and institutional benchmarking, which suggest the need for less criminalistic language regarding academic standing
- Eliminating frequent confusion between “University Probation” (conduct-related; Office of Community Standards) and “Scholastic Probation”

Proposed By-Law Amendments

2. Removal of scholastic warning standing and credit-based scholastic standing criteria

Rationale:

- Mainstream and simplify process and related standings
- Identify and support students who are struggling earlier in academic careers
- Provide clarity in required actions/engagement for all students
- Prevent students from remaining in the process for multiple semesters without progressing toward degree (potential financial implications, etc.)
- Impact on small number of students each semester currently on a warning status

Proposed By-Law Amendments

3. **Change in *minimum* required time away from UConn after dismissal, before applying for readmission**
 - First dismissal: reduce minimum from 2 semesters to 1 semester
 - Second dismissal: reduce minimum from 8 semesters to 4 semesters

Rationale:

- Improve students' likelihood of returning to UConn after dismissal
 - Covid impact of non-academic challenges
 - Readmission rates of dismissed students is very low (currently about 15% of dismissed students are readmitted)
- Responding to student enrollment challenges and patterns as result of pandemic
- Align with national standards of practice (including peer and aspirant institutions)

Proposed By-Law Amendments

4. Clarifying language added regarding impact of summer and winter classes on academic standing

Proposed new language:

Academic standing is calculated only for fall and spring semesters; no student is assigned an academic standing for summer or winter sessions.

- Summer and winter courses can impact a student's prior semester GPA when a course is taken for repeat forgiveness, and the new course grade replaces a previous grade for the same course.
- Summer and winter coursework can impact a student's cumulative GPA

Rationale:

- Existing By-Laws fail to account for summer and winter sessions and their implications for students in the scholastic standing process, resulting in confusion.

Proposed By-Law Amendments

5. Change in how a student is returned to good academic standing

- *Both* semester GPA (sGPA) and cumulative GPA (cGPA) must be above 2.0, regardless of number of earned credits
- No student with at least a 2.3 sGPA average after completing all courses for which they are registered at the end of a semester is subject to dismissal; the student will be *continued on academic notice* if such status is warranted, until both the sGPA and cGPAs are at least 2.0

Rationale:

- By removing all earned credit criteria, this ensures that all students with less than a 2.0 sGPA or cGPA will be supported by this process
- Under current bylaws, students may return to good standing if they have less than 24 credits and achieve a 2.3 sGPA, even if their cGPA remains below 2.0

Proposed By-Law Amendments

6. Move language about end of semester to another section of By-Laws (II.H.1: University Calendar, after paragraph 2)

"The end of the semester is defined as the day when semester grades must be submitted to the Registrar. This must occur no later than seventy-two hours after the final examination period ends."

Rationale:

- This verbiage does not fit in this section of the By-Laws but should be added to a more appropriate section.

Proposed By-Law Amendments

7. **Small edits to readmission language to more accurately reflect the holistic readmission process for dismissed students; small wording changes (gender-neutral language, “shall” vs. “will,” etc.)**

"Students wishing to return to UConn, whether at Storrs or a regional campus, must apply for readmission through the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office, in consultation with deans' designees, will conduct a holistic review of each application. Readmission will be considered favorably only when the evaluation indicates a strong probability for academic success. . . ."

Rationale:

- Change in language about readmission to more accurately reflect holistic review process
- “He or she” language changes to “they”