

## **Undergraduate Scholastic Standing Background and Potential By-Law changes**

### **Background:**

The University's Scholastic Standing process (*impacting undergraduates only*) has been under review over the last several years.

A thorough review was compiled and submitted to the Provost's Office in October 2023 that shared an overview of the history of the process, identified areas of recent changes and challenges, and provided recommendations moving forward based on data and collaborative discussions with campus partners.

One of the review's recommendations was to explore and implement any potential UConn Senate By-Law policy changes or related procedural/process changes with a focus on clarity, simplicity, and student support before the end of Spring 2024, so that changes can be planned and implemented for the 2024-25 academic year.

### **Overview of Proposed By-Law Changes:**

1. Name changes of overall process (for clarity) and probationary standing (less criminalistic<sup>1</sup>):
  - a. Rename 'scholastic standing' to 'academic standing' when referring to overall process or individual academic standings.
  - b. Rename 'scholastic probation' to 'academic notice'
2. Removal of scholastic warning standing and credit-based scholastic standing criteria  
Rationale: Impact on small number of students; simplifies and clarifies the process and required student supports/engagement; in line with peer/aspirant practices.
3. Change in minimum required time away from UConn after dismissal (before applying for readmission) from 2 semesters to 1 semester after the first academic dismissal and from 8 semesters to 4 semesters for second academic dismissal.

Rationales:

- a. Reducing the minimum required time away for students following academic dismissal to increase readmission rates of dismissed students (*currently about 15% of dismissed students are readmitted*) and align with national standards of practice (including peer institutions)
- b. Responding to student enrollment challenges and patterns as result of pandemic.

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<sup>1</sup> Steele, David. (April 2022). A Positive Change for a Negative Label. Inside Higher Ed.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/04/18/csu-fullerton-changes-term-academic-probation-notice>

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

Rationale: Existing bylaws fail to account for summer and winter sessions and their implications for students on probationary statuses, resulting in confusion.

5. Change in how a student is returned to good academic standing
  - a. BOTH semester GPA (sGPA) and cumulative GPA (cGPA) must be above 2.0 for a student to return to good standing, regardless of number of earned credits (currently, academic standing is based on both GPA and number of earned credits)
  - b. 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: 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.

6. Moving language about end of semester to II.H.1: University Calendar.
7. Small edits to readmission language to more accurately reflect the holistic readmission process for dismissed students.

### **Full Text of Proposed By-Law Changes (clean copy):**

#### II.E.13: Academic Notice and Dismissal

Academic notice and dismissal from the University for academic reasons will be administered by the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, at the recommendation of the schools and colleges or regional campuses, in accordance with the regulations that follow:

Academic notice serves as an identification of students whose academic performance is below University standards. The student and their academic advisor are informed that a marked academic improvement in future semesters is necessary to meet the university's minimum academic standards.

Students are placed on academic notice for the next semester in which they are enrolled if they have earned less than a 2.0 semester grade point average (GPA) or cumulative GPA.

The following conditions apply to any student placed on academic notice:

- Any student placed on academic notice because of a semester or cumulative GPA less than 2.0 is removed from academic notice when both the semester *and*

cumulative GPA reaches 2.0 or above, and academic standing is updated (fall or spring semesters only).

- A student who fails to meet these minimum academic standards for two consecutively registered academic semesters (fall and spring semesters only) is subject to dismissal.
  - However, no student with at least a 2.3 semester GPA 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 semester and cumulative GPAs are at least 2.0.
  - Students who are subject to dismissal but who, for extraordinary reasons, are permitted to continue by the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, may be subjected to other mandatory academic conditions for their continuance.

Incomplete and Absent grades ('I', 'X', and 'N') do not represent earned credit. A student in the academic standing process with unresolved grades is returned to good standing if completion of the work places their academic performance above the University's minimum standards.

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.

When a student is dismissed from the University for academic reasons only, any certificate or transcript issued must contain the statement "Dismissed for academic deficiency but otherwise entitled to honorable dismissal."

Dismissal involves non-residence on the University campus and loss of status as a candidate for a degree effective immediately upon dismissal.

Students who have been dismissed may request an evaluation for readmission during a later semester to the University. 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. In their first regular semester after readmission, dismissed students will be continued on an academic standing of "academic dismissal" and will be subjected by the Vice Provost for Academic

Affairs to other conditions for their continuance. Students who have left the University for a reason other than academic dismissal are readmitted under the same academic standing status as designated at the time of their separation from the University.

Students who are dismissed from the University for the first time may, upon approval, matriculate no sooner than one academic semester (fall or spring) following dismissal, in accordance with the University's readmission process and deadlines. Students who are dismissed from the University for the second time may, upon approval, matriculate no sooner than four semesters following dismissal. No student will be readmitted to the University after a third dismissal. All readmitted students remain on academic notice with their respective academic standings (notice, subject to dismissal, dismissed) until both their semester and cumulative GPA are 2.0 or above. Students must follow the catalog requirements for the semester of their readmission.

**Note: Move this section of By-Laws to 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.

### **Full Text of Proposed By-Law Changes (tracked changes copy):**

II.E.13: ~~Scholastic Probation~~ Academic Notice and Dismissal

~~Scholastic probation~~ Academic notice and dismissal from the University for ~~scholastic~~ academic reasons ~~shall~~ will be administered by the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, at the recommendation of the schools and colleges or regional campuses, in accordance with the regulations that follow:

~~Scholastic probation is~~ Academic notice serves as an identification of students whose ~~scholastic~~ academic performance is below University standards. The student and ~~the student's~~ their academic advisor are informed that a marked academic improvement in future semesters is necessary to ~~obtain~~ meet the university's minimum ~~scholastic~~ academic standards.

Students are placed on ~~scholastic probation~~ academic notice for the next semester in which they are enrolled if ~~their academic performance is such that they are included in any of the following conditions:~~

- ~~a. Students who have earned 0-11 credits (considered to be 1st semester standing) and who have earned less than a 1.8 semester grade point average.~~

- ~~b. Students who have earned 12-23 credits (considered to be 2nd semester standing) and who have earned less than a 1.8 semester grade point average.~~
- ~~c. Students who have earned 24 credits or more (considered to be 3rd semester or higher) and who have earned less than a 2.0 semester grade point average (GPA) or cumulative grade point average. GPA.~~
- ~~d.~~

The following conditions apply to any student placed on academic notice:

Any student placed on academic ~~probation~~notice because of a ~~semester or~~ semester or cumulative ~~GPA~~ GPA less than 2.0 ~~shall be is~~ removed from ~~probation~~academic notice when ~~both~~ both the ~~semester and~~ semester and cumulative ~~GPA~~ GPA ~~grade point average~~ reaches 2.0 or above, ~~and academic standing is updated (fall or spring semesters only).~~

~~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.~~

~~Incomplete and Absent grades ('I', 'X', and 'N') do not represent earned credit. A student placed on probation with unresolved grades will be relieved of probation status if satisfactory completion of the work places his or her academic performance above the probation standards.~~

~~Warning letters will be sent to students in good standing who have completed their first or second semester with less than a 2.0 semester grade point average. (note: move to II.H.1: University Calendar (after paragraph 2))~~

A student who fails to meet these minimum ~~scholastic~~academic standards for two consecutively registered ~~academic~~ academic semesters (~~fall or spring~~ fall or spring semesters only) is subject to dismissal. However, no student with at least a 2.3 semester ~~GPA~~ GPA ~~grade point average~~ after completing all courses for which ~~he or she is~~they are registered at the end of a semester ~~shall be is~~ subject to dismissal; the student will be continued on ~~scholastic~~ scholastic ~~probation~~academic notice if such status is warranted, ~~until both the semester and cumulative GPAs are at least 2.0.~~

Students who are subject to dismissal but who, for extraordinary reasons, are permitted to continue ~~may be subjected~~ by the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, ~~may be subjected~~ to other ~~mandatory~~ mandatory ~~academic~~ conditions for their continuance.

Incomplete and Absent grades ('I', 'X', and 'N') do not represent earned credit. A student in the academic standing process with unresolved grades is returned to good standing if

completion of the work places their academic performance above the University's minimum standards.

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.

When a student is dismissed from the University for ~~scholastic~~academic reasons only, any certificate or transcript issued must contain the statement, "Dismissed for ~~scholastic~~academic deficiency but otherwise entitled to honorable dismissal."

Dismissal involves non-residence on the University campus and loss of status as a candidate for a degree effective immediately upon dismissal.

Students who have been dismissed may ~~, during a later semester,~~ request an evaluation for readmission during a later semester to the University. Students wishing to ~~apply for readmission~~return to UConn, whether at Storrs or a regional campus, must ~~do so~~apply for readmission through the Dean of Students Office ~~who will convene a readmission board including the~~. 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. In their first regular semester after readmission, dismissed students will be ~~on scholastic probation~~continued on an academic standing of "academic dismissal" and ~~may~~will be subjected by the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs to other conditions for their continuance. Students who have left the University for a reason other than academic dismissal are readmitted under the same ~~scholastic~~academic standing status as ~~achieved~~designated at the time of their separation from the University.

Students who are dismissed from the University for the first time may, upon approval, matriculate no sooner than ~~two semesters~~one academic semester (fall and spring) following dismissal. ~~in accordance with the University's readmission process and deadlines.~~ Students who are dismissed from the University for the second time may, upon approval, matriculate no sooner than ~~eight~~four semesters following dismissal. No student will be readmitted to the University after a third dismissal. ~~Readmitted~~ All readmitted students ~~will~~ remain on ~~scholastic probation~~academic notice with their respective

academic standings (notice, subject to dismissal, dismissed) until both their semester and cumulative GPA are 2.0 or above. Students ~~will~~must follow the catalog requirements for the semester of their readmission.

***Note: Move this section of By-Laws to 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.

51 YAY, 2 NAY, 3 ABSTAIN