

Undergraduate Studies, Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal

Academic Probation, ~~and Suspension, and Dismissal~~

Students whose campus cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0 will be placed on University Academic Probation. Notification of probationary status will be sent to students each fall and spring term from the Office of Academic Affairs. Students placed on academic probation are restricted to a maximum of 12 credits for the following semester and required to meet with an academic advisor. Students placed on academic probation may also be required to participate in programs designed to help them return to good academic standing. Students whose campus cumulative GPA falls under 2.0 after serving two semesters on probation (not necessarily consecutive) will be suspended from the university. Students should consult with their respective dean's office for additional information.

Students who earn a grade point average of 0.0 in their first semester at UMSL will be suspended.

Students suspended ~~or dismissed~~ from one school or college within the university shall not be admitted to any other school or college until they are eligible for readmission to the university. In order for suspended students to be considered for readmission to the university they must successfully complete at least one semester at an accredited post-secondary institution.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

None

Rationale

Currently, students who earn a 0.0 gpa in their first semester at UMSL are not suspended. This is in contrast to our (and federal) policy on Financial Aid Suspension, which reads: "A student's financial aid will be suspended for any of the following reasons: 5. The student does not complete any credit hours attempted during the semester with a passing grade. Passing grades are A, B, C, D." This proposal would make our financial aid and academic suspension policies identical in regards to the consequences of failing all classes in the first semester at UMSL. Under the current policy, a student can earn a 0.0 gpa in the fall semester, but then go on to enroll for spring and summer semesters without even having to meet with a retention specialist. According to Alan Byrd, students who earn a 0.0 in their first semester at UMSL rarely, if ever, succeed at UMSL. They don't bring their GPA up to a 2.0 and rarely graduate. If a student is suspended under the new policy, they can appeal the decision. The appeal process provides mechanism to require these students to meet with retention specialists before they can enroll in another semester. The new proposal should increase student success by eliminating students with no chance of succeeding sooner. In the long term, it should increase graduation rates. It is also better for students to be suspended sooner in terms of saving their money and time.