



Policy Number: II.10
Policy Level: Operating Policy
Originally Issued: March 13, 2013
Implementation Date: August 19, 2013
Revised: January 13, 2016
Policy Owner: Provost/ VP Academic Affairs
Policy Implementation: Registrar

Standards of Academic Performance

I. Policy Statement and Purpose

In accordance with Athens State University's educational mission, this policy establishes the standards for satisfactory academic performance by students attending Athens State University. The standards are based on comparable practices at other institutions of higher education, and also recognize the unique status of the University as an upper-division institution.

Additional information on grading and grade point averages (GPAs) can be found in the policy document *Athens State University Grading System*.

II. Academic Status and Standards of Performance

While academic performance at other institutions is considered for admission to the University, the academic status of an Athens State student is based only on the student's performance in coursework taken at the University. (Exceptions are for students who are admitted on probationary status from other institutions, or who are admitted to the University with transfer GPAs less than 2.0 on a 4.0 scale – see below).

The appropriate academic status of a student will be noted on the transcript for every semester or term of attendance.

Programs/majors offered by the University which are subject to external licensure, certification, and/or accreditation may have higher standards of performance. Additional details can be found in the appropriate College or department section of the University catalog.

Students receiving Title IV federal financial aid may be subject to other standards of performance as specified by federal regulations.

Undergraduate

Categories for the academic status of an undergraduate student are:

- **Good Standing** – assigned to a student whose cumulative institutional undergraduate GPA is 2.0 or above, and whose institutional undergraduate GPA for any semester/term is 2.0 or above.
- **Academic Probation** – assigned to a student whose institutional undergraduate GPA in the semester/term is below 2.0. This status will also be assigned to a student already on academic probation in a semester/term who earns a 2.0 undergraduate GPA or above in a subsequent term, but whose cumulative institutional undergraduate GPA is still below 2.0. This status will also be assigned to a student who is admitted on probationary status from other institutions, or who is admitted to the University with a transfer GPA less than 2.0.



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- **Academic Suspension, One Semester** – assigned to a student already on academic probation in a semester/term and whose undergraduate GPA in the subsequent semester/term is below 2.0. Students wishing to return to the University after serving a one-semester suspension must apply for readmission to the Admissions Committee (see below). Suspensions may be waived on appeal by application to and approval of the Admissions Committee. Students readmitted after serving a suspension, or on successful appeal of the suspension, are readmitted on academic probation status.
- **Academic Suspension, One Year** - assigned to a student who has served an academic suspension, of one semester, and whose undergraduate GPA in the returning semester/term is below 2.0. Students wishing to return to the University after serving a one-year suspension must apply for readmission to the Admissions Committee (see below). Suspensions may be waived on appeal by application to and approval of the Admissions Committee. Students readmitted after serving a suspension, or on successful appeal of the suspension, are readmitted on academic probation status.

Graduate

Categories for the academic status of a graduate student are:

- **Good Standing** – assigned to a student whose cumulative institutional graduate GPA is 3.0 or above, and whose institutional graduate GPA for any semester/term is not below 3.0.
- **Academic Probation** – assigned to a student whose institutional GPA in a semester/term falls below 3.0. This status will also be assigned to a student already on academic probation in a semester/term who earns a 3.0 graduate GPA or above in a subsequent term, but whose cumulative institutional graduate GPA is still below 3.0. Students should be aware that in order to earn a degree in any graduate program, good standing status must be achieved and maintained prior to the semester of graduation. This status will also be assigned to a graduate student who is admitted conditionally with an overall GPA less than 3.0.
- **Academic Suspension, One Semester** – assigned to a student already on academic probation in a semester/term and whose graduate GPA in the subsequent semester/term is below 3.0. The student will be suspended for one semester. Students should be aware that suspension may affect progress through the curriculum, depending on the program schedule. A graduate student is allowed one suspension.
- **Academic Dismissal** – assigned to a student who receives a second suspension of one semester.

III. Appeal of Academic Performance Status

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The University Admissions Committee reviews and makes recommendations on:

- The admission of students who do not meet standard admissions requirements, or;
- Appeals to waive an academic suspension due to unsatisfactory academic performance, or;
- The readmission of former students who have been suspended from Athens State University and who have served out the suspension.

The Admissions Committee meets only once per semester to review applications and appeals.

All appeals must use the standard appeals form available from the Office of Admissions, and must include all information and materials as specified on the form. The Office of Admissions must receive the form and any supporting materials by the deadline set by the Office for each semester or term. Any student appealing academic suspension who fails to meet the deadline will be required to begin serving out the suspension.

The transcripts of students who have had suspension waived upon appeal will note that the student was readmitted on appeal. Students readmitted upon appeal are assigned academic probation status.

Every student admitted/readmitted through the appeal process will have their performance reviewed at the end of the term in which they were admitted/readmitted for verification of satisfactory academic performance.

Graduate

Under exceptional conditions, a graduate student may appeal an academic suspension or dismissal by writing a formal letter of appeal to the appropriate College Dean. Consideration of reinstatement will be on a case-by-case basis and will be approved only once per student by the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.

If approved, reinstatement may be based on special conditions and is subject to the regulations and standards in effect at the time of re-enrollment.

IV. Intervention for Student Success

In order to promote student success and provide intervention in cases of unsatisfactory academic performance, the University reserves the right to take appropriate steps for any student placed on academic probation, including but not limited to: limiting the student's course load, requiring completion of a study skills course, and/or requiring the completion of other specific courses.

V. Responsibility for this Operating Policy

A. Policy Owner



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As part of the initial approval of this policy by the President and subsequent to the original dissemination of the policy, the President has assigned the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs as the policy owner for the ongoing evaluation, review, and approval of this policy. Subsequent reviews and revisions to this policy must be in accordance with approved operating policy procedures and processes.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or more frequently as needed.

B. Responsibility for Policy Implementation

The President has assigned the responsibility of implementing this policy to the Registrar, under the direction of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Support Services, and the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management.