

Guide for Students on Academic Probation

What Does This Mean?

A student on Academic Probation has a grade point average (GPA) that is within the Table of Standards for their classification, but still has a GPA that is less than a 2.0. Students on Academic Probation will experience certain restrictions while on probation. For instance, students cannot:

- take more than 14 credit hours without special permission from their school/college. Some departments may place their probationary students on a contract and possibly further limit the credit hours that can be taken or the type of classes to be taken.
- hold an office in any club or organization on campus, represent UT Arlington in any official capacity, or attend University-sponsored trips.
- enroll for the next term until the end of the registration period for Current Students (just prior to Open Enrollment).

What Can I Do About It?

There is no appeal process for this academic status; it is simply an indication that you are not in Good Standing with the University. The best course of action is to meet with your academic advisor in your major department prior to the beginning of classes or very early in the semester and develop an action plan for academic success. Here are some questions that students on Academic Probation may want to consider in developing this action plan:

- **Are there environmental factors that are impacting my ability to succeed in college?** For instance, am I working too much and cannot devote enough time to my studies? Am I experiencing personal stressors from family, friends, or personal health issues? Is something impeding my ability to attend classes?
- **Do I have the academic skills I need to succeed in completing my college coursework to the best of my ability?** For instance, do I have the proper time management skills to plan enough study time? Do I know how to prepare for exams? Do I actively take notes and participate in class and read course assignments? Am I receiving poor grades on written assignments and need improvement with my writing skills?
- **Am I in the right major for my particular strengths and skillset?** For instance, am I having trouble completing the coursework for my major area of study, but I am doing well in other subjects? Do I really enjoy this major or are my parents pressuring me to be in this major? Is this really the right major for me? Do I have a good understanding of what my major truly entails?
- **Do I have the right attitude and motivation to be in college?** For instance, do I think negatively about having to do my schoolwork or do I see it as an opportunity to learn something new? If I say "I am motivated and determined to get a degree," am I

really following through by studying the proper amount and producing quality work? Am I actively seeking the resources on and off campus that will help me be a successful student? Is getting a college degree my number-one priority? If so, am I following through with behavior that will help me be successful in achieving that degree?

With some self-reflection, students can work with their advisor to consider solutions and plans that will boost future academic performance. For instance,

- Students who find that they are working too much could cut down on the amount of time working or on the credit hours taken in a given semester. It is better to take fewer credit hours and get good grades than to take more hours and fail or withdraw from courses.
- Students with family members who are sick could cut down on the number of credit hours taken in a given semester or take the semester off altogether.
- For students who seem to study a lot for exams but still do not perform well, they could consider attending a Success Series seminar in University College, finding a tutor or attending Supplemental Instruction based on their individual needs. **There are many resources on campus that students can use to learn study skills or gain help with a particular topic. Responsible students will seek out those resources and use them to their fullest extent. Check out Maverick Resources at www.uta.edu/resources/.**
- Students who enjoy science might consider a career track other than Pre-medicine. They might seek tutoring for Biology and Chemistry courses. Students who do not enjoy the Math courses needed to complete an Engineering degree might consider another major. Students can also work with a counselor in Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) for dealing with parental pressure for a given major or to help identify other possible areas of interest given your strengths. Students in a major can elect to take the UNIV 1131 Major Exploration class to further investigate their strengths and the chosen major.
- Students may simply need to develop a study schedule to ensure that enough study time is allotted to meet their goals.

While this list of scenarios is certainly not comprehensive, it serves to show that the many student issues that impede academic performance have several potential solutions with a little effort, more proactive thinking and some careful planning with the long-term goal in mind...to graduate with a college degree.

What University Policies Should I Consider?

Grade Forgiveness or Grade Exclusion

The University has adopted two policies, grade forgiveness and grade exclusion depending on the year of student admission to the University, to help students repair their cumulative grade point averages (GPA). These policies can be found in the University Requirements & Policies – Grades and Grading Policies (Undergraduate) section of the Catalog at www.uta.edu/catalog/. These policies may be used during the Academic Warning semester in an attempt to improve the GPA. However, while these policies may repair the GPA, they will not solve the potential underlying causes. Talk with your academic advisor to find out more about these policies and if you are eligible for their use.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

For students who receive federal financial aid, federal regulations require that institutions monitor the academic progress of students. Eligibility of federal financial aid may be impacted by a student's grade point average and the number of credit hours completed in a given session. More information about the eligibility requirements can be found at <http://www.uta.edu/fao/policies/>. In some cases, appeals are considered by the Financial Aid Office. The appeal can be found at <http://www.uta.edu/fao/webforms/sap-appeal-form.php>.

It is very important to note that a SAP Appeal is a separate process from Dismissal Appeals. Students must complete both appeal processes independently if necessary. In addition, an appeal granted by the academic department for readmission may not impact your ability to receive federal financial aid. Likewise, an approved SAP appeal does not guarantee that an academic department will grant an appeal for the waiver of a dismissal.

Created by the University Advising Center as a support tool that students can refer to after having received an academic status letter from the Office of Records. While this tool was created by the University Advising Center, students should seek advising from the academic advisor in their major department. Undeclared and freshman students should see an advisor in the University Advising Center. This tool should not be used as a replacement for the Catalog and advisement from your academic department.