

Guide for Students on Dismissal for One Long Term (Dismissal 1)

What Does This Mean?

Students who are on Dismissal 1 will be dropped from all courses for the following term and/or will be prevented from enrolling in the next long term. A “long term” denotes a Fall or Spring term (Summer sessions or Intersessions are not considered a long term). The purpose of the dismissal period is to allow students the time for self-reflection and to deal with issues that are impeding academic success.

Once students have not enrolled at UT Arlington for the designated term, they are allowed to enroll in the next academic session. Upon return to the University, students will be required to **earn at least a 2.5 semester GPA** in order to avoid Dismissal for One Academic Year (Dismissal 2) until they reach Academic Probation or Good Standing.

What Can I Do About It?

Self-Determination and Advocacy

The best course of action is to contact an academic advisor in your major department to develop a plan of action for your time away from campus as well as to find out when you need to make contact again to re-enroll. At some point, you should also talk with your advisor about an action plan for academic success when you return. Here are some questions that a student on Dismissal 1 should consider:

- **What impact will my dismissal have on my life in general?** For instance, are my housing arrangements impacted? Do I have health insurance if I am not enrolled in school? How might this impact my future scholarships and financial aid, such as Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), loan deferment, etc.? For International students, does this impact my visa status for the United States? What realistic adjustments do I need to make to my graduation 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 in the future. 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 pressures 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.

Appeal for Waiver of the Dismissal

Some schools/colleges may consider an appeal for the waiver of the dismissal status for the next term. For students who wish to seek an appeal, here is the basic process for obtaining an appeal:

- Visit with your academic advisor who may be able to help you determine if you might have a viable appeal and the departmental procedures for appealing.
- Each college of school has a designated representative for early appeals, if they are considered. The following colleges do not consider early appeals:
 - College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs
 - College of Business
 - College of Engineering
 - College of Science

If the designated department or college representative supports the appeal, this representative must forward the Early Readmission Contract with their signature or letter of approval to the Director of the University Advising Center. Appeals are only granted when departmental support is provided. Departments have the right to consider or deny appeals based on their individual standards. Students who have already received an appeal for Early Readmission in the past will not be granted another Early Readmission appeal if they did not meet the conditions put forth in the first contract.

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. Also, you must be currently enrolled in order to utilize these.

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.

Readmission to the University After the Dismissal Period

On Dismissal 1, students must sit out for one long term (a Fall or Spring semester). Students may meet with an academic advisor during their dismissal period to determine a course schedule for the readmit term. As long as one full academic year has not elapsed upon return to UT Arlington, students will not have to formally apply for readmission to the University and can re-enroll during the regular registration period.

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.