

# Scholastic Standards

## Academic Integrity

The foremost virtue upon which the academic life is based is integrity, a faithful and persistent pursuit of the truth. Integrity is a principle which permeates all the activities of the University and which guides the behavior of faculty, students and staff. The spirit of academic integrity denotes adherence to the precept that "one's work is one's own." The process by which integrity is upheld assumes clear communication of University expectations, standards and policies, and clear communication of students' and faculty's rights and responsibilities.

Academic misconduct is a breach of academic integrity which may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Plagiarism—presenting as one's own work, whether literally or in paraphrase, the work of another.
2. Cheating on exams, tests and quizzes—the wrongful giving or accepting of unauthorized assistance, the giving or taking of unauthorized exam material and/or the use of illegitimate sources of information.
3. Illicit collaboration with other individuals in the completion of course assignments.
4. The use of fraudulent methods in laboratory, studio, field or computer work.
5. Other acts generally recognized as dishonorable which bear upon academic endeavors.

Procedures for handling cases of academic misconduct are listed in the *Student Handbook*.

## Good Academic Standing

Students enter Salisbury State University in good academic standing. Students who have received SSU grades and whose Salisbury State University cumulative grade point averages are 2.0 or higher remain in good academic standing.

## Unsatisfactory Academic Achievement

### Deficit Point System

The number of deficit points represents the approximate number of credit hours which the student needs to improve in order to reach good academic standing. To calculate the number of deficit points for a student whose SSU cumulative grade point average is below 2.0, the Office of Academic Affairs uses these rules; each hour of **D** credit counts as one deficit point; each hour of **F** credit counts as two deficit points; each hour of **B** credit reduces the deficit point total by one; each hour of **A** credit reduces the deficit point total by

two; and all other grades (including transfer grades, SSU **C** credits, etc.) are ignored.

Students may reduce deficit point totals by taking new courses and earning grades of **A** or **B**. In addition, because only the most recent SSU grade earned in a course is used to compute SSU grade point averages, students may reduce their deficit point totals by repeating courses with low SSU grades and earning higher SSU grades. Each letter grade of improvement will remove one deficit point for each credit hour of the course. For example, if a student earned an **F** in a three-credit course and subsequently repeated the course and earned a **B**, the student would have improved the original grade by three letter grades and would have reduced the deficit point total by nine deficit points. A student who earns a **B** in a new three-credit course reduces the deficit point total by three.

### Academic Probation and Dismissal

Students whose Salisbury State University cumulative grade point average is less than 2.0 acquire deficit points (explained above) and are placed on academic probation or are dismissed.

### First Semester Students (Freshman and Transfer)

#### Academic Probation

Students who acquire one or more deficit points during their first semester are placed on academic probation. Students on academic probation may register for up to 15 credit hours per semester but may not elect to take any courses on a pass/fail basis if the courses are offered for a grade.

#### Dismissal

First semester students are not academically dismissed during their first semester. During their second semester, students on academic probation who do not earn a semester grade point average of 2.0 are dismissed. During the third and subsequent semesters these students are considered continuing students and are subject to the policies below.

### Continuing Students

#### Academic Probation

Students who accumulate one to 12 deficit points are placed on academic probation. Students on academic probation may register for up to 15 credit hours per semester but may not elect to take any courses on a pass/fail basis if the courses are offered for a grade.

#### Dismissal

Students who accumulate 13 or more deficit points are academically dismissed. Students on academic

probation who do not reduce their deficit points and make a 2.0 grade point average each semester are dismissed. Part-time students on academic probation in a fall or spring semester, or students on academic probation during a winter or summer session, may not increase their deficit point totals or they are dismissed.

### Dismissed Students

Dismissed students are allowed to attend the University only as restricted-status students taking no more than seven credit hours per semester. Students dismissed while on probation may apply for *readmission on academic probation* once they have six or fewer deficiency points AND they have fewer deficit points than they had when dismissed. Such students remain on academic probation until they have a grade point average of 2.0 or better. Students dismissed because they accumulated more than 12 deficit points may apply for *readmission on academic probation* once their deficit point totals have been reduced to six or fewer. Dismissed students who have not attended the University for two years but who can demonstrate evidence of good academic promise may apply for *readmission as students on special probation*. Dismissed students who increase their deficit point totals may be denied permission to register for classes at the University.

More detailed information about deficit points, restricted status, academic probation, special probation, academic dismissal and readmission is available from the Office of Academic Affairs.

### Academic Clemency Policy

Salisbury State University recognizes that some students may, for a variety of reasons, develop academic records that do not reflect their true abilities. Students who leave the University with poor academic records may wish to receive academic clemency upon their return. To encourage students to try again after an unsuccessful experience, the University is prepared to extend academic clemency.

Clemency may be requested by students who have not attended the University for at least five calendar years. Students are only eligible for clemency one

time during their academic career. Students seeking clemency must complete a clemency form and may petition to have up to 16 credit hours of D and F removed from the grade point averages. The grades of D and F will remain on the transcript with X beside them. When clemency is granted for D grades the previously earned credits will be lost. The grade point averages of students who have received clemency will be recalculated to reflect that clemency. Students who receive clemency are eligible to graduate with honors.

Contact the Office of Academic Affairs, Holloway Hall Room 239, 410-543-6020, for detailed procedures.

### Class Attendance

The faculty regards the classroom as the center of University life and students are expected to attend all classes. There are no officially excused absences. In the case of an absence, the student is responsible for all material presented and assigned.

Each instructor provides students with a written attendance policy at the first class meeting.

### Absence Notification

In the case of an extreme emergency or prolonged illness, the Student Affairs Office notifies class instructors of the dates of a student's absence from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the Student Affairs Office of emergencies and illnesses.

Professors establish their own attendance policy. Notification of absence is a service to students and faculty; it is not an official excuse from classes and work missed.

### Waivers of Academic Policies And Procedures

Under unusual circumstances students may wish to seek waivers of academic policies and procedures. In such cases students should consult with their faculty advisors for detailed information about steps for seeking waivers.