

## SALISBURY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MOTION

Submit this form to the Faculty Senate President

SUBJECT: Changing Academic Probation to Academic Warning for Undergraduate Students

SENATOR PROPOSING MOTION: Anita Brown

SENATOR SECONDING MOTION:

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### **MOTION** (this section alone will be recorded in the minutes):

In order to take effect at the beginning of Fall 2026, for undergraduate students, Academic Probation shall be changed to Academic Warning.

This change will be made

- in the Faculty Handbook (Chapter 9)
- in the SU Catalog (sections listed below)
  - Registration and Student Records/Pass/Fail Credit Option
  - Undergraduate Scholastic Standards and Support Services/Academic Standing (Undergraduate Students)
  - Undergraduate Scholastic Standards and Support Services/Unsatisfactory Academic Achievement
  - Undergraduate Scholastic Standards and Support Services/ Unsatisfactory Academic Achievement/Academic Probation
  - Undergraduate Scholastic Standards and Support Services/ Unsatisfactory Academic Achievement/Academic Restriction
  - Undergraduate Scholastic Standards and Support Services/ Unsatisfactory Academic Achievement/Readmissions Options
  - Undergraduate Scholastic Standards and Support Services/ Unsatisfactory Academic Achievement/Academic Dismissal
- on the SU Website
- and everywhere that Academic Probation appears for undergraduate students.

In the SU Catalog, the words “academic probation” should be substituted with “academic warning,” except, in the section Graduate Student Information/Academic Standards no changes should be made.

Chapter 9 of the Faculty Handbook shall be altered as shown below.

Eligibility to Register

#### **[BOR III-2.30](#)**

The information below pertains to undergraduate students. For information related to advising and registration of graduate students, please see [Chapter 8: Graduate Education](#).

#### ***Good Academic Standing (Undergraduate Students)***

Students are admitted into Salisbury University in good academic standing. Students who have received Salisbury University grades and whose Salisbury University cumulative grade-point averages are at least 2.0 remain in good academic standing. Grade-point averages will be computed whenever grades are awarded or changed.

Consequently, a student’s academic standing can change at any time. A student’s academic status and eligibility to register is described below.

### Definitions of Academic Status

1. Admitted (a.k.a. Matriculated) Students - students admitted to the University, attending full- or part-time, pursuing a bachelor's degree. They are either in good academic standing or on academic **probation warning**.
2. Students in Good Academic Standing - students whose SU cumulative GPAs are at least 2.0. Students who are not in good academic standing are either on academic **probation warning** or on restricted status.
3. Students on Academic **Probation Warning** - students who are not in good academic standing but who are still admitted and pursuing degrees. Such students have academic (and other) limitations placed upon them.
4. Restricted Status Students - previously-admitted students who have been dismissed because of poor academic performance and who are no longer degree-seeking students. These students are allowed to register as non-degree students and are limited to (8) credits per semester.
5. Dismissed Students - previously-enrolled students who are no longer allowed to attend the University (for at least five years).

### Unsatisfactory Academic Achievement (Undergraduate Students)

1. **Academic Probation Warning, Restricted Status, and Academic Dismissal:** Admitted students whose Salisbury University cumulative grade-point averages are less than 2.0 will be placed on academic **probation warning**. Students on **probation warning** who fail to return to good standing or who fail to meet the criteria which allows them to remain on **probation warning** will be dismissed and their academic standing changed to restricted status. Restricted status students may be academically dismissed fully for a period of five years for inadequate academic performance.
2. **Academic Probation Warning:** Students on academic **probation warning** may register for no more than five courses for a total of (16) credit hours per semester and may not elect to take any courses on a pass/fail basis if the courses are offered for a grade. Admitted students who are in good academic standing at the beginning of a semester (or term or session) but who are no longer in good academic standing at the conclusion of that semester (respectively term or session), will be allowed to register as students on academic **probation warning**. At the conclusion of any semesters (or terms or sessions) while on academic **probation warning**:
  - a. Students will be returned to good academic standing if their Salisbury University cumulative grade-point averages are at least 2.0.
  - b. Students who fail to attain good academic standing will be allowed to continue to register as students on academic **probation warning** provided they satisfy both of the following conditions: 1) they earn semester (or term or session) grade-point averages of at least 2.0 and 2) their cumulative grade-point averages are greater than or equal to the appropriate minimums in the chart below.
  - c. Students on **probation warning** who fail to attain good academic standing will be dismissed and they will be allowed to continue to register for classes as restricted status students if either 1) they earn semester (or term or session) grade-point average less than 2.0 or 2) their cumulative grade-point averages are less than the appropriate minimums in the chart below.

Credit Hours (Including transfer credits) toward a degree	Minimum SU Cumulative Grade-Point Average
Fewer than 30	1.4
30 - 35	1.5
36 - 41	1.6
42 - 47	1.7
48 - 53	1.8
54 - 59	1.9
60 or more	2.0

**Note: Students with (60) or more earned credit hours are expected to remain in good standing with a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or better.**

3. **Restricted Status:** Restricted status students may enroll in no more than two courses for a total of (8) credit hours per semester. There are additional University policies limiting the activities in which students

in restricted status may engage. In special circumstances, the Office of Academic Affairs may allow restricted status students to exceed these limitations, but in no case will restricted status students exceed the limitations placed upon students on academic ~~probation~~ warning. Whenever students are placed in restricted status, they will have three registrations (for semesters, terms, or sessions) to attain cumulative grade-point averages of at least 2.0. Students in restricted status who fail to attain Salisbury University cumulative grade-point averages of at least 2.0 within the three-registration time frame will be fully dismissed for a period of five years. Restricted status students who attain Salisbury University cumulative grade-point averages of at least 2.0 within the three-registration time frame may apply for readmission.

4. **Academic Dismissal:** Academically dismissed students may no longer register for classes at Salisbury University. However, academically dismissed students who have not attended Salisbury University for five years or more and who can provide evidence of good academic promise may apply for readmission as students on academic ~~probation~~ warning or for classification as restricted status students. Academic dismissal may be appealed to the Office of Academic Affairs. Academically dismissed students may also qualify for academic clemency.
5. **Undergraduate Non-Degree Students:** Undergraduate non-degree students (UND) are students usually pursuing one or two courses for personal or professional development and are not assigned an Advisor. Upon completion of 30 semester hours, these students must apply for admission to the University as matriculated students. The only UND students who are assigned advisors are restricted status students, who have been dismissed for inadequate academic performance but who are permitted to continue to attend the University under the direction of the Office of Academic Affairs. Students on restricted status are advised by the Director of the Academic Advising Center.

And the Glossary of the Faculty Handbook shall be altered as shown below.

#### **Faculty Handbook Glossary**

**Academic Clemency** - Students who leave the university with a poor academic record are eligible to request that courses be removed from attempted hours (AHRS), earned hours (EHRS), quality hours (QHRS) and the grade point average (GPA) calculations.

**Academic Misconduct** - This act is intended to foster student academic integrity and to address cases of student academic misconduct which may include, but are not limited to lying, cheating, plagiarism, and misappropriation of course-based intellectual property.

**Admitted (Matriculated) Students** - Students admitted to the University, attending full- or part-time, pursuing a bachelor's degree. They are either in good academic standing or on academic ~~probation~~ warning.

**Admission Revoked Students** - Students on ~~probation~~ warning who fail to return to good standing or who fail to meet the criteria which allows them to remain on ~~probation~~ warning will have their admissions revoked and their academic standing changed to restricted status.

**Arbitrary/Capricious Grading** - The assignment of a course grade to a student on some basis other than performance in the course, by unreasonable application of standards different from the standards that were applied to other students in that course or by a substantial and unreasonable departure from the instructor's initially articulated standards.

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**Students in Good Academic Standing** - Students whose SU cumulative GPAs are at least 2.0. Students who are not in good academic standing are either on academic ~~probation~~ warning or on restricted status.

**Students on Academic ~~Probation~~ Warning** - Students who are not in good academic standing but who are still admitted and pursuing degrees. Such students have academic (and other) limitations placed upon them.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The Student Success Council investigated and reported the following regarding Academic Probation.

Background and Current Policy:

- Currently, when a student’s cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, they are placed on probation.
- “Probation” triggers specific outreach by the Academic Advising Center or the Center for Student Achievement (depending on the student’s year/classification).

Rationale for Change:

- The word “probation” is commonly associated with criminal convictions and the legal system, a negative connotation that can impact students’ perceptions of academic notice.
- Studies show that framing a negative situation in more positive terms encourages students to do better.
- In 2018, the overall language in the “probation letter” was updated to be more encouraging. A change to the naming convention is the next step.
- This change is on par with what other schools have done or are doing: [Academic Probation Gets a Rebrand](#)

The proposed change simply alters the term Academic Probation. This change will not alter any processes. After reviewing this information from the Student Success Task Force, the Academic Policy Committee (APC) agreed to recommend the change to the Faculty Senate.

**ANTICIPATED IMPACT:**

**Negative:**

A fair amount of effort will be involved in making this change in a variety of publications.

**Positive:**

Students may feel more encouraged to be successful after a warning.

Is this a recommendation to the Provost? Yes   X                        No         
 Is this a recommendation to someone else? No                             Yes, to                                   

VOTE: Number of Senators Present:                      Motion Passes or Fails: