

## SALISBURY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MOTION

Submit this form to the Faculty Senate President

SUBJECT: Revising Academic Status Progression Prior to Academic Dismissal

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 Status shall be changed so that students who are not in good academic standing will remain degree seeking and progress through multiple levels of academic standing prior to an academic dismissal. The progression will be as identified below

**Good Standing** (2.0 or Higher)

**Academic Alert** (Required Contact\*/Limited to 16 Credits)

**Academic Warning** (Registration Hold Until Required Contact\*/Limited to 12 Credits)

**Academic Restriction** (Required GENL 105 Course/Limited to 8 Credits but Remain Degree-Seeking)

**Academic Dismissal** (Cannot take classes for five years)

\*Required contact would be with a member of the Academic Advising Center or Center for Student Achievement staff.

This change will be made

- In Gull Net
- in the Faculty Handbook (Chapter 9 and glossary)
- in the SU Catalog (sections listed below)
  - Registration and Student Records/Pass/Fail Credit Option
  - Undergraduate Scholastic Standards and Support Services
- on the SU Website
- and everywhere that Academic Probation appears for undergraduate students.

Accordingly, the SU Catalog will be changed to what follows:

Section of Catalog: Registration and Student Records

## Pass/Fail Credit Option

During their junior and senior years, undergraduates may take courses on a pass/fail basis, subject to the following conditions:

1. Courses taken on a pass/fail basis may not be used to satisfy General Education, major or minor requirements with the exception of non-traditional credit awards and fieldbased courses where pass/fail is the only grading option. In addition, courses used to satisfy the University's 300/400 level requirement may not be taken on a pass/fail basis.
2. Students may take as many as four courses under the pass/fail option but may elect only one pass/fail credit course per semester unless a course is offered only on a pass/fail basis.
3. Students on Academic Alert, Academic Warning, or Academic Restriction may not elect to take any courses on a pass/fail basis if the courses are offered for a grade.

Students may request that an individual course be designated as pass/fail by submitting a properly completed Change Form for PS/F, AU, Credit Hours to the Registrar' Office. Changes to or from pass/fail are permitted only during the preregistration, registration and drop/add periods. Forms may be found on the Registrar's Office website.

Section of Catalog: Undergraduate Scholastic Standards and Support Services

## Academic Standing (Undergraduate Students)

**The following terminology is used in defining the academic standing policy.**

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

**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 alert, academic warning, or academic restriction.

**Academic Alert** - Students whose cumulative GPA has fallen below a 2.0, but who are still admitted and pursuing degrees. Such students are limited to taking 16 credits.

**Academic Warning** - Students who failed to raise their cumulative GPA to a 2.0 after being placed on Academic Alert. They are still admitted and are pursuing a degree but are limited to taking 12 credits.

**Academic Restriction** - Students who failed to raise their cumulative GPA to a 2.0 after being placed on Academic Warning. They are still admitted and are pursuing a degree but are limited to taking 8 credits.

**Academic Dismissal**- Previously enrolled students who are no longer allowed to attend the University.

## Good Academic Standing

Students are admitted to Salisbury University in good academic standing. Students who have received SU grades and whose SU cumulative GPAs are at least 2.0 remain in good academic standing. GPAs will be computed whenever grades are awarded or changed. Consequently a student's academic standing can change at any time.

### **Unsatisfactory Academic Achievement**

Admitted students whose Salisbury University cumulative grade-point averages are less than 2.0 will be placed on Academic Alert, Academic Warning, or Academic Restriction. Students on Academic Restriction who fail to return to good standing will be academically dismissed.

### **Academic Alert**

Students on Academic Alert 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 Alert.

At the conclusion of any semesters (or terms or sessions) while on Academic Alert:

- Students will be returned to good academic standing if their Salisbury University cumulative GPAs are at least 2.0.
- Students who fail to attain good academic standing will be allowed to continue to register as students on Academic Warning.

### **Academic Warning**

Students on Academic Warning may register for no more than four courses for a total of 12 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 have an academic standing of Academic Alert at the beginning of a semester (or term or session) but who fail to raise their cumulative GPA to the required 2.0 will be allowed to register as students on Academic Warning.

At the conclusion of any semesters (or terms or sessions) while on Academic Warning:

- Students will be returned to good academic standing if their Salisbury University cumulative GPAs are at least 2.0.
- Students who fail to attain good academic standing will be allowed to continue to register as students on Academic Restriction.

### **Academic Restriction**

Students on Academic Restriction may register for no more than two courses for a total of eight 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 have an academic standing of Academic Restriction at the beginning of a semester (or term or session) but who fail to raise their cumulative GPA to the required 2.0 will be academically dismissed for a period of five years.

## **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 Alert. . Academic dismissal may be appealed to the Office of Academic Affairs. Academically dismissed students may also qualify for academic clemency after a five-year absence from the University.

And the Faculty Handbook shall be changed to what follows:

From Faculty Handbook, Chapter 9

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. 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.
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 Alert, Academic Warning or Academic Restriction.
3. Students on Academic Alert - Students whose cumulative GPA has fallen below a 2.0, but who are still admitted and pursuing degrees. Such students are limited to taking 16 credits.
4. Students on Academic Warning - Students who failed to raise their cumulative GPA to a 2.0 after being placed on Academic Alert. They are still admitted and are pursuing a degree but are limited to taking 12 credits.
5. Students on Academic Restriction - Students who failed to raise their cumulative GPA to a 2.0 after being placed on Academic Warning. They are still admitted and are pursuing a degree but are limited to taking 8 credits.
6. Dismissed Students - previously-enrolled students who are no longer allowed to attend the University.

### ***Unsatisfactory Academic Achievement (Undergraduate Students)***

Admitted students whose Salisbury University cumulative grade-point averages are less than 2.0 will be placed on Academic Alert, Academic Warning, or Academic Restriction. Students on Academic Restriction who fail to return to good standing will be academically dismissed.

#### **Academic Alert**

Students on Academic Alert 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 Alert.

At the conclusion of any semesters (or terms or sessions) while on Academic Alert:

- Students will be returned to good academic standing if their Salisbury University cumulative GPAs are at least 2.0.
- Students who fail to attain good academic standing will be allowed to continue to register as students on Academic Warning.

#### **Academic Warning**

Students on Academic Warning may register for no more than four courses for a total of 12 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 have an academic standing of Academic Alert at the beginning of a semester (or term or session) but who fail to raise their cumulative GPA to the required 2.0 will be allowed to register as students on Academic Warning.

At the conclusion of any semesters (or terms or sessions) while on Academic Warning:

- Students will be returned to good academic standing if their Salisbury University cumulative GPAs are at least 2.0.
- Students who fail to attain good academic standing will be allowed to continue to register as students on Academic Restriction.

#### **Academic Restriction**

Students on Academic Restriction may register for no more than two courses for a total of eight 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 have an academic standing of Academic Restriction at the beginning of a semester (or term or session) but who fail to raise their cumulative GPA to the required 2.0 will be academically dismissed for a period of five years.

**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 Alert. Academic dismissal may be appealed to the Office of Academic Affairs. Academically dismissed students may also qualify for academic clemency.

**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.

#### **JUSTIFICATION:**

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

#### **Executive Summary:**

- Change the Academic Standing process to:
  - Reduce the number of semesters that a student with a cumulative GPA below 2.0 can enroll. (Moving from four terms to three terms.)
  - Allow students with a cumulative GPA below 2.0 to stay enrolled as degree-seeking students.
- Create three distinct Academic Standing levels to clearly delineate the differences and severity of each.

#### **Rationale:**

- Currently, students move directly from Probation to Restricted Status (which changes them to non-degree seeking status).
- Restricted Status limits students' ability to receive financial aid.
  - This is a more serious penalty for our students who rely on financial assistance.
  - The number of enrolled students who are Pell eligible continues to rise.
- Although given the opportunity to file an appeal regarding their academic standing, not all students know how to advocate for themselves, and many don't have someone at home to help them.
  - The number of enrolled students who are First Generation continues to rise.
- Many students need more than one semester to recover.
  - Repeating courses may not benefit students who have decided to change their major.
  - Students need to take more new courses than repeats to raise their cumulative GPA.
- Non-degree students become disconnected from campus.
  - A sense of belonging and connection has been shown to increase the likelihood of student success metrics such as retention and degree completion.

**Benefits:**

- Remaining in degree-seeking status benefits students who require financial aid to remain enrolled.
- Gives students a second semester as a full-time student. That could mean four more credits toward academic recovery.
- New language indicates the increasing severity of the situation.
- Potential increase to persistence rates.
- Potential increase to retention rates.

**Challenges:**

- Students would still need to appeal their financial aid status if they didn't maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).
- Awarding this opportunity does not ensure that students will stay enrolled.
- Awarding this opportunity does not ensure that students will recover academically.

And, the Student Success Council provided the following comparison of current vs proposed pathways:

CURRENT	PROPOSAL #1
<b>Good Standing</b> (2.0 or Higher)	<b>Good Standing</b> (2.0 or Higher)
<b>Probation</b> (Limited to 16 Credits)	<b>Academic Alert</b> (Required Contact*/Limited to 16 Credits)
<b>Dismissal</b> (Moved to Non-Degree Limited to 8 Credits)	<b>Academic Warning</b> (Registration Hold Until Required Contact*/Limited to 12 Credits)
<b>Non-Degree Restricted Status One</b> (Limited to 8 Credits)	<b>Academic Restriction</b> (Required GENL 105 Course**/Limited to 8 Credits but Remain Degree-Seeking)
<b>Non-Degree Restricted Status Two</b> (Limited to 8 Credits)	<b>Academic Dismissal</b> (Cannot take classes for five years)
<b>Final Dismissal</b> (Cannot take classes for five years)	

\*Required contact would be with a member of the Academic Advising Center or Center for Student Achievement staff.

\*\*This course was developed by Seth Endicott in the Center for Student Achievement (CSA) and was recently approved by the UCC.

Redlined change versions of the catalog and handbook are attached.

**ANTICIPATED IMPACT:**

**Negative:**

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

**Positive:**

Students will have a progression that continues to provide a little more support and a little more restriction while remaining degree seeking so that they may maintain more engagement with campus and some benefits related to being degree seeking (such as certain types of financial aid).

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:

DRAFT