

University of Western States establishes standards for satisfactory academic standing and notifies students who fail to achieve or maintain such standing.

For a student enrolled in more than one academic program, academic standing is determined for each program based on whether the student is meeting the requirements based on the courses associated with each academic program.

Definitions

Satisfactory Academic Standing

Satisfactory academic standing denotes that a student is eligible to continue in or return to the university.

Minimum Cumulative GPA Requirements

A student is required to maintain minimum cumulative grade point averages throughout their academic program as indicated below. A student who does not meet the minimum cumulative GPA requirement for their academic program is subject to academic warning, academic probation, or academic dismissal, as described in the Academic Standing Statuses section of this policy.

Academic Program	Minimum Cumulative GPA Requirement
Doctor of chiropractic and undergraduate	2.0
Doctor of naturopathic medicine	2.5
Master of science in sports medicine	2.75
All other graduate degree programs or certificate programs	3.0

First Term Minimum GPA Requirements

A student in their first academic term is required to meet the first term minimum GPA requirement for their academic program as indicated below. A student who does not meet the first term minimum GPA requirements for their academic program is dismissed from the program. A student who meets the first term minimum GPA requirement for their program, but not the minimum cumulative GPA requirement for their program, is placed on academic warning.

Academic Program	First Term Minimum GPA Requirement
Doctor of chiropractic and undergraduate	1.5
All other graduate degree programs or graduate certificate programs	2.0

Unsatisfactory Grades

Students are required to achieve satisfactory grades in each course in order to receive credit. Unsatisfactory grades for each academic program are listed below. Students who receive unsatisfactory grades are subject to academic sanctions.

Academic Program	Unsatisfactory Grades
Doctor of chiropractic, doctor of naturopathic medicine, and undergraduate	D, F, NP, WF
Master of science in sports medicine	D, F, NP, WF
Master of science or graduate certificate in human nutrition and functional medicine	D, F, NP, WF
All other graduate programs	C, D, F, NP, WF

Unsatisfactory grades are used to calculate GPA and do not apply toward a degree. A student who receives an unsatisfactory grade must repeat the course and receive a satisfactory grade in order to receive credit. When a student repeats a course, the original and repeated course grades are recorded on the student transcript. The highest grade is used to calculate the cumulative GPA.

Note: While C grades are satisfactory grades in the doctor of naturopathic medicine, the master of science in sports medicine, and the master of science or graduate certificate in human nutrition and functional medicine, students in these programs are required to maintain the minimum cumulative GPA requirements for their program.

Maximum Enrollment Time

A student is expected to complete their program requirements within the established maximum enrollment time for their academic program. A student who does not complete their program requirements within the maximum enrollment time is dismissed from their academic program. Return to enrollment requires reapplication and readmission. Readmitted students must meet the program requirements listed in the academic catalog at the time of readmittance.

Academic Program	Maximum Enrollment Time
Doctor of chiropractic degree	Within six (6) years of starting the program
Doctor of clinical nutrition degree	Within five (5) years of starting the program
Doctor of naturopathic medicine degree	Within seven (7) years of starting the program
All other doctoral degrees	Within eight (8) years of starting the program
Master's degrees	Within five (5) years of starting the program
Graduate certificates	Within three (3) years of starting the program

Policy 1218 Academic Standing

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Note: All students receiving federal student aid must make satisfactory academic progress (SAP) toward a degree or certificate in order to retain eligibility for financial aid. See [Policy 3804 Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Eligibility](#).

Academic Standing Statutes

Academic Warning

A student is placed on academic warning if they fail to meet the minimum cumulative GPA requirement for their academic program.

A student is removed from academic warning if their cumulative GPA in the subsequent term of enrollment meets program requirements and they successfully meet the requirements of their academic performance contract, as applicable.

Academic Probation

A student is placed on academic probation if they:

- Fail to meet the minimum cumulative GPA requirement for their academic program for the second consecutive term;
- Earn an unsatisfactory grade in the same course for the second time; or
- Are placed on academic warning for the third time. The instances of academic warning need not be consecutive.

A student is removed from academic probation if their cumulative GPA in the subsequent term of enrollment meets program requirements and they successfully meet the requirements of their academic performance contract.

Academic Dismissal

A student is academically dismissed if they:

- Fail to meet the first term minimum GPA requirement for their academic program;
- Fail to meet the minimum cumulative GPA requirement for their academic program for the third consecutive term;
- Earn an unsatisfactory grade in the same course for the third time;
- Fail to meet the terms of their academic performance contract;
- Fail to complete their program requirements within the established maximum enrollment time; or
- Are twice placed on academic probation. The two instances of academic probation need not be consecutive.

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A student who is academically dismissed may apply for readmission in accordance with [Policy 2006 Readmission](#).

Academic Standing Interventions

Letter of Concern

A Letter of Concern responds to academic progress that does not meet the program's expectations and provides a reference for available academic support resources.

The dean issues a Letter of Concern when a student:

- Earns an unsatisfactory grade in a required course while maintaining the minimum cumulative GPA requirement for their academic program;
- Earns a C grade in a course for the doctor of naturopathic medicine, the master of science in sports medicine, or the master of science or graduate certificate in human nutrition and functional medicine while maintaining the minimum cumulative GPA requirement for their academic program; or
- Earns a second remedial grade (R) in a required course. The two R grades do not need to be sequential or for the same course. R grades are available only as described in [Policy 1207 Grading System](#).

Academic Performance Contract

The college dean and/or the program director develops an Academic Performance Contract to prescribe conditions for continued enrollment. Conditions comply with this policy and may include, but are not limited to, remediation, change in term course load, or other provision at the discretion of the dean/program director.

The Academic Performance Contract may be written for one or more academic terms, at the discretion of the dean/program director. Failure to meet the terms of the Academic Performance Contract at benchmark points established within the contract results in academic dismissal.

If a student is placed on an Academic Performance Contract spanning more than one academic term, and the student is meeting the benchmarks outlined in the contract, the student remains on the status of academic probation for the duration of the contract, as long as they continue to meet the established benchmarks.



A student is placed on an academic performance contract if they:

- Earn three remedial grades (R) in a required course. The three R grades do not need to be sequential or for the same course. R grades are available only as described in [Policy 1207 Grading System](#); or
- Are placed on academic probation.

At the discretion of the dean/program director, students may be placed on an Academic Performance Contract if they:

- Earn two unsatisfactory grades in a required course while maintaining the minimum cumulative GPA for their academic program. The two unsatisfactory grades do not need to be for the same course;
- Require a special schedule; or
- Are readmitted following academic dismissal.

For the purposes of receiving federal financial aid, the Academic Performance Contract may be referred to as an academic plan. A student may be required to submit their Academic Performance Contract/academic plan to the financial aid office for continued financial aid eligibility. See [Policy 3804 Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Eligibility](#).

Repeat of Coursework

A student who receives an unsatisfactory grade must repeat the course to receive credit. Repeating a course may result in schedule conflicts that lead to one or more additional terms of enrollment and postponement of program completion. The college dean, in consultation with the registrar, may develop special schedules for students who are required to repeat coursework. A special schedule may be included as part of the academic performance contract.

Incompletes

When an incomplete (I) or incomplete, extended (IX) grade is resolved, academic standing is reassessed for the term in which the incomplete was granted. If warranted, academic sanctions are retroactively applied and an academic performance contract may be drafted at that time.

Appeal

Grade Appeal

A student may appeal a course or assignment grade in accordance with [Policy 1211 Grade Appeal](#).

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Academic Sanctions Appeal

A student may appeal academic sanctions, including dismissal, in accordance with [Policy 9009 Student Appeal](#).

Related Policies: [Policy 1207 Grading System](#)
 [Policy 1211 Grade Appeal](#)
 [Policy 1215 Drop Add](#)
 [Policy 1229 Registration for Courses that Conflict](#)
 [Policy 2006 Readmission](#)
 [Policy 3804 Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Eligibility](#)
 [Policy 9009 Student Appeal](#)

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