



Policy Number II.10  
Policy Level: Operating Policy  
Originally Issued: March 13, 2013  
Implementation Date: August 19, 2013  
Revised: January 13, 2016  
Revised: October 23, 2018  
Revised: February 18, 2019  
Revised: January 7, 2020  
Revised: March 13, 2023  
Policy Owner: Provost/ VP Academic Affairs  
Policy Implementation: Registrar

## Standards of Academic Performance

### I. Policy Statement and Purpose

In accordance with Athens State University's educational mission, this policy establishes the standards for satisfactory academic performance by students attending Athens State University. The standards are based on comparable practices at other institutions of higher education, and also recognize the unique status of the University as an upper-division institution.

Additional information on grading and grade point averages (GPAs) can be found in the policy document [Athens State University Grading System](#).

### II. Academic Status and Standards of Performance

While academic performance at other institutions is considered for admission to the University, the academic status of an Athens State student is based only on the student's performance in coursework taken at the University. (Exceptions are for students who are admitted on probationary status from other institutions, or who are admitted to the University with transfer GPAs less than required for unconditional admission.)

The appropriate academic status of a student will be noted on the transcript for every semester or term of attendance.

Programs/majors offered by the University which are subject to external licensure, certification, and/or accreditation may have higher standards of performance. Additional details can be found in the appropriate College or department section of the University catalog.

Students receiving Title IV federal financial aid may be subject to other standards of performance as specified by federal regulations.



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## Undergraduate

Categories for the academic status of an undergraduate student are:

- **Good Standing** – assigned to a student whose cumulative institutional undergraduate GPA is 2.0 or above, and whose institutional undergraduate GPA for any semester/term is 2.0 or above.
- **Academic Probation** – assigned to a student whose institutional undergraduate GPA in the semester/term is below 2.0. This status will also be assigned to a student already on academic probation in a semester/term who earns a 2.0 undergraduate GPA or above in a subsequent term, but whose cumulative institutional undergraduate GPA is still below 2.0. This status will also be assigned to a student who is admitted on probationary status from other institutions, or who is admitted to the University with a transfer GPA less than 2.0.
- **Academic Suspension, One Semester** – assigned to a student already on academic probation in a semester/term and whose undergraduate GPA in the subsequent semester/term is below 2.0. Students seeking reinstatement to the University after serving a one-semester suspension must follow the procedure for reinstatement (see Reinstatement After Serving Suspension below). Students wishing to appeal the one-semester suspension must apply for appeal and receive approval of the Academic Suspension Appeal Committee (see Undergraduate Current Student Suspension Appeal below).
- **Academic Suspension, One Year** - assigned to a student who has served an academic suspension, of one semester, and whose undergraduate GPA in the returning semester/term is below 2.0. Students seeking reinstatement to the University after serving a one-year suspension must follow the procedure for reinstatement (see Reinstatement After Serving Suspension below). Students wishing to appeal the one-year suspension must apply for appeal and receive approval of the Academic Suspension Appeal Committee (see Undergraduate Current Student Suspension Appeal below).

## Graduate

Categories for the academic status of a graduate student are:

- **Good Standing** – assigned to a student whose cumulative institutional graduate GPA is 3.0 or above, and whose institutional graduate GPA for any semester/term is not below 3.0.



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- **Academic Probation** – assigned to a student whose institutional GPA in a semester/term falls below 3.0. This status will also be assigned to a student already on academic probation in a semester/term who earns a 3.0 graduate GPA or above in a subsequent term, but whose cumulative institutional graduate GPA is still below 3.0. Students should be aware that in order to earn a degree in any graduate program, good standing status must be achieved and maintained prior to the semester of graduation. This status will also be assigned to a graduate student who is admitted conditionally with an overall GPA less than 3.0.
- **Academic Suspension, One Semester** – assigned to a student already on academic probation in a semester/term and whose graduate GPA in the subsequent semester/term is below 3.0. The student will be suspended for one semester. Students should be aware that suspension may affect progress through the curriculum, depending on the program schedule. A graduate student is allowed one suspension.
- **Academic Dismissal** – assigned to a student who receives a second suspension of one semester.

### III. Reinstatement After Serving Suspension

#### Undergraduate

An undergraduate student seeking reinstatement to the University after serving a suspension must:

1. Submit a completed Readmission Form to the Registrar's Office if the student has not been enrolled for more than one semester (not including summer), AND
2. Schedule and complete a mandatory counseling session with the Student Success Center. Students will not be allowed to register until the counseling session is complete.

#### Graduate

A graduate student seeking reinstatement to the University after serving a suspension must:

1. Submit a completed Admission Form to the Office of Admissions if the student has not



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- been enrolled for more than one semester (not including summer), AND
2. A graduate student wishing to return to the University after serving a one-semester suspension must petition for readmission to the appropriate College Dean. The student should consult with their Faculty Advisor and the Graduate Catalog regarding other program-specific requirements for readmission. Consideration of reinstatement will be on a case-by case basis and will be approved only once per student by the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.

In order to promote student success and provide intervention in cases of unsatisfactory academic performance, the University reserves the right to take appropriate steps for any student being reinstated, including but not limited to: limiting the student's course load, and/or requiring the completion or repeat of other specific courses.

#### IV. Appeal of Academic Suspension or Dismissal

##### Undergraduate

All academic suspension appeals **must** use the standard Appeal of Suspension form available on the University website, **must** include all information and materials as specified on the form, and **must** be submitted to the recipient specified on the form. Submissions via email **must** originate from the student's assigned Athens State student email account. The form must be submitted with any supporting materials before the first day of classes for the term in which the student wishes to re-enroll. **Any student appealing academic suspension who fails to meet the deadline will be required to serve out the suspension.**

The Academic Suspension Appeal Committee's decision on all appeals is final.

The transcripts for a student who has had suspension waived upon appeal will still note the student was suspended in the applicable term. In order to promote student success and provide intervention in cases of unsatisfactory academic performance, the University reserves the right to take appropriate steps for any student whose suspension is waived, including but not limited to: limiting the student's course load, and/or requiring the completion or repeat of other specific courses.



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## **Graduate**

Under exceptional conditions, a graduate student may appeal an academic suspension or dismissal by writing a formal letter of appeal to the appropriate College Dean. Consideration of reinstatement will be on a case-by-case basis and will be approved only once per student by the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.

If approved, reinstatement may be based on special conditions and is subject to the regulations and standards in effect at the time of re-enrollment.

## **V. Intervention for Student Success**

In order to promote student success and provide intervention in cases of unsatisfactory academic performance, the University reserves the right to take appropriate steps for any student placed on academic probation, including but not limited to: limiting the student's course load, requiring completion of a study skills course, and/or requiring the completion of other specific courses.

## **VI. Responsibility for this Operating Policy**

### **A. Policy Owner**

As part of the initial approval of this policy by the President and subsequent to the original dissemination of the policy, the President has assigned the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs as the policy owner for the ongoing evaluation, review, and approval of this policy. Subsequent reviews and revisions to this policy must be in accordance with approved operating policy procedures and processes.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or more frequently as needed by the Policy Owner. Revisions will be reviewed/affirmed by the Faculty Senate and the Cabinet and approved by the University President. This policy will be updated/published in the University's Policy Library.

### **B. Responsibility for Policy Implementation**

The President has assigned the responsibility of implementing this policy to the Registrar, under the direction of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Support Services, and the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management.