

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 12, 2016

TO: Deans, Directors, Department Heads, and Advisors

FROM: Dennis Ray, Chair, Undergraduate Council (UGC)
Celeste Pardee, Assistant Director for Academic Policies and Organizations

RE: **Academic Probation Policy Amendment**

In October the Undergraduate Council proposed amending the Academic Probation Policy to include a statement on the Academic Recovery Program, which was launched as a pilot in FY 2015 by the Office of Academic Success & Achievement. Now that the Program's effectiveness in retaining first-time probation students has been proven, the faculty agreed that it should be addressed in the Academic Probation Policy (see below). UGC's proposal was passed by the Faculty Senate on December 5, 2016. The amended policy applies to all enrolled undergraduate students as of Spring 2017.

Amended [Academic Probation Policy](#) (amendment to the 2016-17 Catalog is in red)

*Undergraduate students not meeting academic progress will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation status occurs following any term (i.e., fall, winter, spring, summer) when the student's cumulative grade-point-average (GPA) drops below a 2.000. **The first time that students are placed on academic probation, they should meet with their [academic advisor](#) to discuss the consequences, such as enrollment in a mandatory [Academic Recovery Program](#) during the following fall or spring semester.** Students on academic probation are subject to **restrictions or requirements, such as certain courses, that are determined** by the academic dean of the college in which the student is enrolled. **Students should contact** the [college dean's office](#) for college-specific probation policies. Students are removed from academic probation upon earning the minimum 2.000 cumulative GPA as required by the University.*

Justification for the Amendment:

- Many students struggle academically with the transition from high school to college, and some are placed on academic probation at the end of their first semester. On average, ~20% of freshmen, ~10% of sophomores, and ~7% of juniors enter academic probation status every term. Freshmen on academic probation after their first term have a first-year retention rate below 50%.
- The Academic Recovery Program, which was initiated as a pilot in FY2015, enables first-time probation students to regain good standing by providing peer mentors and learning specialists who help with goal-setting and action plans that address academic skills, time-management, motivation, etc.
- Serving these at-risk students is labor and time-intensive. The mandatory academic recovery fee (\$100) gives modest support to colleges that provide additional academic recovery services, such as workshops and success courses, in collaboration with the centralized services to increase student retention.
- The academic standing of Program participants in Spring 2015 was compared to that of eligible non-participants. The outcomes for that semester are as follows: 1,308 students were invited to participate, 780 (60%) accepted, 281 (36%) of those attained good standing, 507 (65%) persisted from spring to Fall 2016, and 125 (16%) were disqualified; 528 (40%) declined to participate, 111 (21%) of those attained good standing, but only 253 (48%) persisted to Fall 2016, and 169 (32%) were disqualified.

Management of the Academic Recovery Program:

- Central oversight of the program is provided by the Office of Academic Success & Achievement, in collaboration with the colleges and the [Think Tank](#).

- Three Academic Recovery options are available through the Office of Academic Success & Achievement: Pathway to Academic Student Success (PASS), Wildcat Track, and Online Rebound. Each college assigns its students to one of these programs or to another appropriate program.

Questions about the amended Catalog policy amendment may be addressed to Celeste Pardee, Curricular Affairs, at 621-5375, or cpardee@email.arizona.edu; questions about the Academic Recovery Program should be addressed to Christine Salvesen, Academic Success & Achievement, at 626-8494, or cls@email.arizona.edu.