
Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee and the Council of Student Conduct Expectations and Accountability

1. **PROPOSAL TITLE:** Revise Banner Descriptors that Reference “Probation” and Revise Section 3-110 of the *Student Code* to Reflect This Revision and to Include Graduate Students
2. **SPONSOR NAME AND EMAIL:** Kevin Jackson, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, kjack@illinois.edu
3. **CONTACT NAME AND EMAIL:** Kathy Martensen, Associate Provost for Educational Programs and Success Initiatives, kmartens@illinois.edu
4. **BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** This is a proposed revision to the term “probation” used in the Banner descriptor field for academic standing levels and of Section 3-110 of the *Student Code*, Probation and Drop Rules – Undergraduate Students to 1) reflect this revised language and 2) include graduate students.
5. **DESIRED EFFECTIVE TERM:** Fall, 2024
6. **JUSTIFICATION:** The words we use have power: Research shows that students’ experiences and perceptions of being on academic probation are influenced by language used. Institutional labeling of students in a racially- and culturally-charged way leads to disproportionately negative experiences for historically underrepresented minority students, undermining sense of belonging and perceived ability (Boretz, Gunn, and La Pietra, 2021).

Institutions such as California State University, Fullerton (CSF); the University of Georgia; the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and Purdue University have moved away from placing students on academic probation. Though equating to the same set of requirements, CSF’s adoption of “academic notice” instead of “probation” in 2020 has decreased students’ feelings of being stigmatized (Steele, 2022).

Students’ negative experiences have a negative impact on retention and graduation rates. Moreover, if we have an opportunity to alter our institution’s academic vernacular to make it both more equitable and more accurately descriptive, why would we not take that opportunity?

The Council of Undergraduate Deans (CoUD) began to engage in discussion of the issue and proposed alternatives in Spring, 2023. In Fall, 2023, the Student Success @ Illinois’ Policy and Issues Group, which has representation from all undergraduate-serving academic units, furthered CoUD’s discussion and began to shape implementation details. Also in Fall, 2023, members of the Graduate College’s administrative leadership team participated in meetings

about revising this language and seeking shared verbiage for undergraduate and graduate programs, with the intention of reducing confusion for students and fostering an equitable experience at the graduate level. Following multiple consultations with the Registrar's office, the following changes to Banner Academic Standing Descriptions are proposed:

1. Changing all "Good Standing" codes (10, 12, 15, 16, and 19) to "Good Academic Standing." This differentiates academic standing from standing related to student conduct, providing accuracy and clarity.
2. Revising academic codes 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 1G, 1H, 1J, 1K, 1L, 1M, and 1N from descriptions that start with the word "Probation" then list a specific GPA requirement to "Low GPA Warning." In addition to clarifying the status is academic-related rather than conduct-related, this revision purposefully moves away from inclusion of a specific GPA reference. These levels are automatically assigned based on programming rules in Banner. Meant to reflect the GPA a student would need to achieve to move to "Good Standing," they create confusion for students and are not necessarily accurate. For example, most academic units would not drop a student whose Banner-assigned standing was 1C – Probation: 2.33 GPA Req if that student earned a term GPA above 2.00 but below 2.33.
3. Change the "College Probation" codes (1P and 1T) to "College Academic Warning." Again, this revision differentiates academic standing from conduct standing. Because these codes are assigned by the academic unit rather than auto assigned by Banner, they tend to be used in cases where the student is in more serious jeopardy of being dropped. Stronger language differentiates these levels from the "Low GPA Warning" levels.

There would be no changes to the descriptions for codes 1Q – Limited Status: 2.75 GPA Req and 1R – Limited Status: 3.00 GPA Req. These codes are used exclusively by the Graduate College and the description does accurately reflect the students' standing. Code 1S – Status Undetermined and 1X – Drop -Readmit, used for both undergraduate and graduate students, would also remain unchanged as they too are accurate descriptors and do not utilize the word "probation." Attachment A provides further details regarding Banner Academic Standing Descriptions, the current codes and descriptions, and the proposed changes.

A second part of this proposal is to revise section 3-110 of the *Student Code*, currently titled "Probation and Drop Rules – Undergraduate Students." These changes would remove references to "probation" and incorporate the academic standing rules for graduate students. Currently, the academic standing rules for graduate students are not included in the *Code*, which means these students must seek that information from a separate source. This revision puts both populations' rules in the same central resource.

Given the extent of the revisions to this section that are necessary to accommodate both the language update and the inclusion of graduate students, rather than including a version with changes tracked, the current wording is included as Attachment B and the proposed revised wording as Attachment C.

References

Boretz, E., Scissum Gunn, K., & La Pietra, D. (2021). Toward a racially and culturally sensitive renaming of 'academic probation'. [White paper].

<http://itwebstg.fullerton.edu/aac/Academic%20Notice%20White%20Paper%202021.pdf>

Steele, D. (2022, April 18). A positive change for a negative label. *Inside Higher Education*.

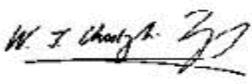
<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/04/18/csu-fullerton-changes-term-academic-probation-notice>

CAMPUS WORKFLOW NOTIFICATION

 12/5/23
 Unit Representative Name and Signature Date

Kathryn A. Martensen 12/5/23

 College Representative Name and Signature Date

Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko 12/11/23

 Graduate College Representative Name and Signature Date

 12/11/23
 Brooke Newell
 Provost Representative Date

 Educational Policy Committee Representative Date

Attachment A: Banner Academic Standing Codes and Descriptions

The form in Banner which houses academic standing codes and the descriptions of these codes is STVASTD, "Academic Standing Code Validation." This form is essentially a master table used to keep track of the various academic standing codes and their descriptors.

When an academic standing code is assigned to a student, the Banner system uses that table to pull the matching descriptor for reports or for students' view in Self-Service; STVASTD is essentially the official record of codes and descriptors.

As Banner is shared across all three University of Illinois campuses, the "1" in the codes associated with academic probation refer to the Urbana-Champaign campus. The other numbers and letters do not have any assigned meaning. Using 0 through 9 and A through Z for the second character simply maximizes the number of codes that can be created with Banner's two-character limit when the first character has to be used to represent the campus.

Academic Standing Code	Location	Current Description	Revised Description
10	STVASTD Banner Form	Good Standing	Good Academic Standing
12	STVASTD Banner Form	Good Standing	Good Academic Standing
15	STVASTD Banner Form	Good Standing	Good Academic Standing
16	STVASTD Banner Form	Good Standing	Good Academic Standing
19	STVASTD Banner Form	Good Standing	Good Academic Standing
1A	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 2.00 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning
1B	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 2.25 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning
1C	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 2.33 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning
1D	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 2.25 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning
1E	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 2.00 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning
1F	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 2.50 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning
1G	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 2.25 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning
1H	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 2.33 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning
1J	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 2.50 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning
1K	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 2.75 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning
1L	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 2.75 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning
1M	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 3.00 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning
1N	STVASTD Banner Form	Probation: 3.25 GPA Req	Low GPA Warning

§ 3-110 PROBATION AND DROP RULES – UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- a. The following probation and drop rules apply in all undergraduate colleges on the Urbana-Champaign campus. They do not apply in the Graduate College, or the professional programs in the Carle Illinois College of Medicine, the College of Law, and College of Veterinary Medicine. (See § 3-609(b) on notification.)
 1. Probationary status serves as a warning to the student that unless the student's scholarship improves, the student is subject to the drop rules.
 2. Probation and drop rules are based on the University of Illinois semester average or (See § 3-103 on computation of scholastic averages.)

b. Probation Rules

The following regulations shall be used to determine a student's probationary status, provided drop rules do not apply:

1. Beginning Freshmen

A beginning freshman who does not earn at least a 2.0 (C) average in the student's first semester or during summer session is placed on a 2.0 probation for the next semester or summer session in which the student is registered.
2. Students other than beginning freshmen
 - A. A student whose cumulative average is 2.0 or better and who does not earn at least a 2.0 average in any semester or during summer session is placed on a 2.0 probation for the next semester or summer session in which he or she is registered.
 - B. A student whose cumulative average is 1.75 to 1.99 inclusive is placed on a 2.25 probation.
 - C. A student whose cumulative average is less than 1.75 is placed on a minimum 2.33 probation.
 - D. A student may be placed on a "probationary status" at any time when, in the judgment of the college or school, the student's scholastic record warrants such action.

Likewise, the probation rules may be waived when, in the judgment of the college or school, a student's scholastic record indicates that the warning provided by the probationary status is unwarranted.

3. Scholastic probationary status at the university may not be cleared by attendance at another institution except by special action of the dean of the student's college or school.
4. Removal from probation. Students on academic probation for failure to maintain the minimum grade-point average are returned to non-probationary standing upon obtaining a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 (C = 2.0) or better.

c. Drop Rules

The following regulations shall be used to determine if a student is to be dropped from the university.

1. A student is dropped if the student fails to earn at least a 1.0 (D) average in any academic semester (not including summer or winter session).
2. A student on probation who fails to meet the student's established probation level is dropped unless the student has achieved at least a 2.0 average or better for that semester and the student's cumulative average is at least 2.0.
3. A student who fails to make satisfactory progress toward a degree is dropped. Examples would be the repeated failure of a required course or failure to meet other conditions for continuation in the curriculum.
4. A nondegree or part-time student who fails to complete the conditions of admission or continuation is dropped.
5. The drop rules may be waived when, in the judgment of the student's college or school, the student's scholastic record warrants such action.

§ 3-110 ACADEMIC STANDING RULES

- a. The following rules are applied in the academic standing review process that takes place in all undergraduate academic units and in the Graduate College at the end of each semester. They do not apply in the professional programs in the Carle Illinois College of Medicine, the College of Law, and College of Veterinary Medicine. (See § 3-609(b) on notification.)
 1. Students are considered in Good Academic Standing when they meet or exceed all required university and program-specific grade point averages (GPAs) as well as other academic program-specific requirements.
 2. Students who are not in Good Academic Standing are considered in Academic Warning status. When students are placed on Academic Warning status, they receive notice from their college, division, or school that describes the reason(s) the student is on Academic Warning and requirements needing to be met to return to Good Academic Standing. Students who do not meet these requirements are subject to drop rules.

b. Academic Standing Rules

The following regulations shall be used to determine a student's academic standing, provided drop rules do not apply (See § 3-110(c)). GPA references are based on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign semester average or the cumulative GPA (See § 3-103 on computation of scholastic averages.)

1. Undergraduate students:
 - A. An undergraduate student whose cumulative average is below 2.0 and/or who earns a semester GPA below 2.0 and/or does not meet program-specific requirements in the most recent semester or during summer session in which the student is registered will be placed on Academic Warning status beginning the next semester or summer session in which the student is registered.
 - B. Undergraduate students on Academic Warning status are returned to Good Academic Standing upon meeting the requirements and stipulations communicated to them in their notification of being placed on Academic Warning status.
2. Graduate students:
 - A. A graduate student whose cumulative average is below the minimum set for their academic program and/or who earns a semester GPA below 2.25 in the most recent semester in which the student is registered is will be placed on Academic Warning status beginning the next semester in which the student is registered.
 - B. Graduate students who are on Academic Warning status for failure to maintain the minimum GPA are returned to Good Academic Standing upon obtaining a cumulative GPA at or above the minimum and the most recent semester GPA of 2.25 or better.
3. All students:
 - A. In addition to the general requirements described above, a student may be notified by their college, division, or school that they are in Academic

Warning status at any time when, in the judgment of the college, division, or school, the student's scholastic record warrants such action. The college, division, or school will review the student's scholastic record and return the student to Good Academic Standing when warranted.

- B. Likewise, the rules may be waived when, in the judgment of the college, division, or school, a student's scholastic record indicates that this action is unwarranted and the student can be in Good Academic Standing.
- C. A student's academic standing may not be changed by attendance at another institution except by special action of the dean of the student's college or school.

c. Drop Rules

The following regulations shall be used to determine if a student is to be dropped from the university for academic reasons.

1. A student is dropped if they earn a semester GPA below 1.0 (not including summer or winter session).
2. A student on Academic Warning status who fails to meet the requirements communicated to them by their college, division, or school is dropped.
3. A student who fails to make satisfactory progress toward their degree is dropped. Examples would be the repeated failure of a required course or failure to meet other conditions for continuation in the curriculum.
4. A nondegree or part-time student who fails to complete the conditions of admission or continuation is dropped.
5. The drop rules may be waived when, in the judgment of the student's college or school, the student's scholastic record warrants such action.