

# FOSTERING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

## ACADEMIC STANDING POLICY



### WCU ACADEMIC STANDING POLICY

Student Academic Standing is defined as either: Good Academic Standing, Academic Warning, Academic Suspension, or Academic Dismissal. Academic Standing considers both qualitative (GPA) and quantitative (percent completion) measures.

#### GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING

All Undergraduate students must meet the following requirements to remain in Good Academic Standing:

- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.
- Earn 67% of their hours each semester (term).
- Failure to meet any of these requirements each semester (term) will result in academic warning, suspension, or dismissal.

#### ACADEMIC WARNING FOR FIRST-SEMESTER FRESHMAN AND NEW TRANSFERS

First-semester freshmen and new transfers who earn a cumulative GPA within the range of 1.0 to 1.999 at the end of their first semester will be suspended, unless they choose to participate in a Learning Contract. Students will receive information about the Learning Contract option with their notice of suspension and must respond by the contract's deadline to continue for a second semester. This option is not available to first-semester freshmen and new transfer students who earn a cumulative GPA below a 1.0.

Hours Attempted	67%
6 hrs.	Must earn 4 hrs.
9 hrs.	Must earn 6 hrs.
12 hrs.	Must earn 8 hrs.
15 hrs.	Must earn 10 hrs.
18 hrs.	Must earn 12 hrs.

#### LEARNING CONTRACT PROGRAM

Students who are given a Learning Contract option, and who choose not to participate in the Learning Contract program, are not eligible to continue enrollment in the University for one term. If readmitted after a lapse in enrollment, students are reminded that they will return to Western Carolina University under the general guidelines for academic warning.

The Learning Contract Program specifies that students work closely with an academic advisor to set realistic goals for academic improvement, and make plans to reach those goals.

Students must successfully complete all the conditions of their Learning Contract. Failure to meet these criteria will result in academic suspension.

Option for Students Suspended at End of Spring Semester Students who are suspended at the end of Spring semester have two options to continue enrollment in the Fall. 1) successfully appeal their suspension, or 2) enroll in summer courses under the terms of a summer contract (academic action plan). Students who elect to enter into a summer contract must successfully complete the terms of the contract to be eligible to continue in the Fall. Contracts must be negotiated and signed ten days prior to the start of the regular summer session.

#### ACADEMIC WARNING—CONTINUING STUDENTS

Academic Warning for Continuing Students Continuing students are placed on academic warning if the student's cumulative Western Carolina University grade point average (GPA) falls below 2.0 or if the student fails to complete 67% of their attempted semester hours. Course completion rate is checked at the end of each semester, and students who fail to complete 67% of their attempted semester hours in their two most recently completed terms of enrollment, **regardless of cumulative GPA**, will be placed on academic warning.

At the end of the term of academic warning, students must achieve the following to regain good academic standing:

- Earn a 67% completion rate on the hours attempted for the semester, and
  - Raise the cumulative GPA to good standing (2.0),
- or
- Earn a 67% completion rate on the hours attempted for the semester, and
  - Earn a minimum 2.3 term GPA during the warning term.

Failure to achieve one of the above academic criteria will result in academic suspension.

## ACADEMIC WARNING FOR CONTINUING STUDENTS

Students who are on Academic Warning and who fail to meet the criteria necessary for continued enrollment will be suspended. Students who earn all F grades or a combination of all F, U, or W grades will be suspended. All students have the right to appeal prior to the published appeals deadline. See appeals below. Students who are granted an appeal will be required to participate in an Academic Action Plan. Students who are suspended are not eligible to enroll at the University during the next regular (fall or spring) semester but may apply for readmission after they have served one semester of suspension.

## ACADEMIC ACTION APPEAL POLICY

Appeals for reinstatement without having to serve a specified period of suspension are approved or denied by the Academic and Admission Appeals Board (referred to here as “Board”). The Board’s decision is final and is based upon the student’s letter of appeal, which should include the following:

- The reason for the student’s poor academic performance,
- Documentation of extenuating circumstances, and
- A plan for rectifying the academic performance and raising the GPA to acceptable standards.

Requests for reinstatement must be submitted to the Advising Center by the deadline stated in the academic suspension notification letter, which also includes instructions for completing the request for reinstatement. A student whose appeal for reinstatement is approved will be designated as “Academic Action Plan” on his or her academic record and allowed to continue their enrollment under the Learning Contract program.

EXAMPLES OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES	SUGGESTED DOCUMENTATION
Medical/Psychological Circumstances	Statement from physician or therapist on letterhead including dates of service and whether or not the student is stable and ready to return to the University
Personal/Family Emergency	Medical documentation or statement from physician on letterhead including dates of service
Death of a Family Member	Copy of an obituary, funeral program, or certified death certificate Statement of the relationship between the student and the deceased to accompany the obituary or funeral program

## COURSE WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES POLICY

Every student is allowed to withdraw from any class for any reason (and receive a grade of WC\*) after the end of the add/drop period and until the published deadline for withdrawing from class (es), not to exceed 16 credit hours.