

To: President Jeffrey Leak

From: Faculty Academic Policy and Standards Committee, Dr. Gregory Mixon, Chair

Re: Academic Progress Implementation Committee Proposal on redefining Academic Standing as approved by FAPSC on November 17, 2015

Date: November 23, 2015

Attached is the Faculty Academic Policy and Standards approved proposal from the Academic Progress Implementation Committee redefining the definitions of Academic-Standing. The proposal suggest that there be four definitions of Academic Standing to better accommodate statewide standards set by General Administration and not impose negative consequences upon students enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The proposal passed unanimously in FAPSC 7-0. Questions concerning the policy changes can be addressed by Ms. Tina McEntire and Ms. Leslie Zenk co-chairs of the Academic Progress Implementation Committee

Academic Progress Implementation Committee
Recommendations to FAPSC

October 19, 2015

Submitted by:

Tina McEntire, Co-Chair	Associate Provost, Enrollment Management
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Bruce Blackmon	Director, Financial Aid
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Paul Fitchett	Associate Professor, Middle, Secondary, and K-12 Education Representative, Faculty Academic Policy and Standards Committee
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Chris Knauer	University Registrar, Registrar
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Gregory Mixon	Associate Professor, History Chair, Faculty Academic Policy and Standards Committee
Melba Spooner	Associate Dean, College of Education
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In Fall 2015 FAPSC charged the Academic Progress Implementation Committee with researching and proposing changes to the Academic Probation and Suspension Policy. The committee recommends the following policy changes to four policies:

- 1) Academic Probation and Suspension [suggested rename: Academic Standing]
- 2) Baccalaureate Degree Requirements
- 3) Honors Programs
- 4) Academic Honors

Changes to the Academic Probation and Suspension policy grew out of mandates from the University of North Carolina General Administration and the Fostering Undergraduate Student Success policy and corresponding regulations. There is no consistent implementation of the regulations across the 16 higher education campuses of the University of North Carolina, but it became quickly apparent that UNC Charlotte's initial interpretation of the policy was much stricter than other campuses and resulted in a number of unintended consequences that put student success at risk (see Academic Progress Implementation Committee Recommendations presented to Provost Joan Lorden, December 18, 2014). These policy recommendations adhere to the regulations but remove the unintended consequences found in the initial policy.

Proposed Changes to Academic Probation and Suspension Policy

UNC Charlotte Academic Policy: Academic ~~Probation and Suspension~~Standing

I. Introduction

There is no Introduction for this policy.

II. Policy and Procedure Statement

This policy applies only to undergraduates: "student" should be read as "undergraduate student" throughout. Newly admitted students begin in good academic standing. Each student's academic standing is evaluated at the end of every fall or spring semester for which the student was enrolled, based on hours attempted at UNC Charlotte only. The possible results of this evaluation are described below:

ACADEMIC STANDING

A student will have one of the following types of academic standing:

GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING-Good Academic Standing

To remain in good academic standing, a student must maintain: 1) a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 **and** 2) a cumulative ratio of earned to attempted credit hours of at least two-thirds.

Good Academic Standing Warning

Semester Warning

A student who meets the cumulative requirements for good academic standing but performs below a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) ~~either numerical standard~~ in the

semester of the evaluation or performs below the two-thirds cumulative ratio of earned to attempted hours is given a “~~semester-good academic standing~~ warning.” This indicates potential academic problems and is communicated to the student and to the student’s advisor and major department(s). Students on “good academic standing warning” do not meet the financial aid requirements for satisfactory academic progress. ~~Semester-Good academic standing~~ warnings do not appear on the student’s permanent academic record and the transcript notation will reflect “good academic standing”. -

Comment [LRZ1]: Add Hyperlink: <http://finaid.uncc.edu/keeping-your-aid/satisfactory-academic-progress>

~~ACADEMIC PROBATION~~ Academic Probation

A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 ~~or whose cumulative ratio of earned to attempted hours falls below two-thirds~~ is placed on academic probation. This status is noted on the student's permanent academic record with the semester of the evaluation, and continues until the next evaluation opportunity.

~~ACADEMIC SUSPENSION~~ Academic Suspension

A student on academic probation who does not meet the cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0~~requirements for good academic standing~~ at the next evaluation is suspended from the University, unless the student’s GPA for that semester is at least 2.3, in which case the student remains on probation instead. Academic suspension is noted on the student’s permanent academic record.

Exception for Summer Enrollment

Students on academic suspension are permitted to enroll in summer-session classes, but are not eligible to enroll for fall or spring semesters until they have applied and been approved for reinstatement or readmission.

III. Definitions

- **GPA (Grade Point Average)** – The grade point average for an undergraduate student is determined by adding all accumulated quality points together, and then dividing by the total number of GPA hours the student has attempted, excluding those for which the student received a grade of I, IP, W, H, P, AU, or N. In computing the grade point average, only those credits attempted at UNC Charlotte ~~or through UNC Online or through the Charlotte Area Educational Consortium~~ are included. See the [GPA Calculator](#).
- **Attempted Hours:** The credits received from courses completed at UNC Charlotte regardless of grade earned, courses from which students withdrew (W or WE), and courses that were repeated (even if additional credit was not earned).
- **Earned Hours:** The credits received from courses ~~you~~ successfully completed at UNC Charlotte.
- **Semester or Term** – A period of study of approximately 16 weeks, usually half of the academic year (i.e., fall and spring semesters). The fall semester begins in August and the spring semester begins in January at UNC Charlotte. There are summer terms as well: one ten-week and two five-week terms.

IV. Policy Contact(s)

- **Authority:** Faculty Council [Faculty Academic Policy and Standards Committee]
- **Responsible Office:** Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- **Additional Contact(s):** Office of the Registrar

V. History

- **Approved:** November 15, 1982
- **Revised:** April 27, 2000
- **Revised:** January 27, 2011
- **Revised:** April 24, 2014 [Faculty Council updated all policy definitions]

VI. Related Policies, Procedures and Resources

- [Office of the Registrar FAQs About Academic Suspension](#)
- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Office of Student Financial Aid: Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

VII. Frequently Asked Questions

- **Which students are covered under this policy?** This policy applies to all undergraduate students at UNC Charlotte.
- **Can a student appeal an Academic Suspension status?** Yes, every student is given the opportunity to appeal their suspension status. Please refer to the [Office of the Registrar](#) for additional information on appeals.

Proposed Changes to Baccalaureate Degree Requirements Policy

UNC Charlotte Academic Policy: Baccalaureate Degree Requirements

<http://provost.uncc.edu/policies/baccalaureate-degree-requirements>

I. Introduction

All baccalaureate degrees require completion of a minimum of 120 credits and completion of the General Education requirements. To graduate from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, students must earn the last 25% of degree requirements at UNC Charlotte and must ~~have an overall cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 as well~~ be in good academic standing and have earned a minimum grade point average of ~~as a~~ 2.0 in the major/minor.

II. Policy Statement

CREDIT HOURS AND MAJOR

All baccalaureate degrees require completion of a minimum of 120 semester hours of credit, including all requirements for a major field of study. Specific requirements for degrees and programs are presented under the college and departmental sections of the *Catalog*.

GENERAL EDUCATION

All baccalaureate degrees require completion of a common set of General Education requirements. Refer to the General Education Program section of the *Undergraduate Catalog*.

RESIDENT REQUIREMENT

To graduate, a student must earn the last 25% of baccalaureate degree requirements at UNC Charlotte, including the last 12 semester hours of work in the major field and at least six hours of

any minor field of study. Exceptions to these hour provisions may be made upon the recommendation of the student's major department and with the approval of the dean of the college of the student's major. (Please note: earning 25% of the degree at UNC Charlotte cannot be waived due to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation standards.)

Coursework taken in residence shall be construed to mean work offered by UNC Charlotte and taken in courses on the UNC Charlotte campus or at an approved off-campus center. Credit earned by challenge examinations or other advanced standing examinations cannot be used to meet the residency requirement.

GRADE POINT AVERAGES

To graduate, a student ~~must have an overall cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0~~must be in good academic standing and have earned ~~and~~ a grade point average of at least 2.0 in the major and in any minor. Some programs require a higher grade point average. Specific requirements for degrees and programs are presented under the college and departmental sections of the *Undergraduate Catalog*.

Suggested Changes to Honors Programs Policy

UNC Charlotte Academic Policy Honors Programs

<http://provost.uncc.edu/policies/honors-programs>

I. Introduction

There is no Introduction for this policy.

II. Policy Statement

PURPOSE

The purpose of honors programs at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte shall be to identify the creative, imaginative, and/or exceptional student, and to encourage and recognize the development of each student's potential. Honors programs emphasize UNC Charlotte's mission as an urban research university and provide undergraduate research experiences for honors students. Honors programs shall be adaptable and open to all students who can justify participation.

HONORS RECOGNITION

On recommendation of the proper instructional faculty and examining committee, and certification by the Honors Council, the honors candidate shall be graduated with Honors in _____ (e.g., Chemistry). Recognition of such distinction shall be given during the commencement ceremonies and shall be noted on the student's permanent record.

GUIDELINES FOR HONORS PROGRAMS AND GRADUATION WITH HONORS

1. Honors coursework may be undertaken as early as the first semester of the freshman year.
2. To qualify for graduation with honors recognition, the student must be admitted formally to honors candidacy through the Application to Candidacy process no later than the semester prior to the semester of the honors capstone project/thesis.
3. To qualify for graduation with honors recognition a student must, at a minimum:
 - a. be in good academic standing;
 - b. have at least a 3.20 G.P.A. for all honors courses in their honors program(s);
 - c. receive the grade of "A" for at least 3 hours of honors capstone project/thesis in that honors program(s);
 - d. Honors capstone projects/theses should include the required elements stated in "Redesign of Honors Education Vision 2013: Curriculum and Programming" document, as follows: a "written product, public oral and visual presentation, research/inquiry based including research faculty as advisors/readers";
 - e. receive the recommendation of their honors program(s) committee(s).

Individual honors programs may institute additional or more rigorous requirements.
4. The withdrawal policy for honors courses shall be the same as the withdrawal policy for other University courses. A student may at any time withdraw from an honors program without penalty.
5. Students who are honors-qualified but not currently in an honors program shall be permitted to enroll in and receive credit for individual honors courses, with permission of instructor in consultation with the program director.
6. Grades in honors courses shall use the same grading scale as in other University courses.
7. The credit system for honors courses shall be identical to that used for all other undergraduate courses.
8. Honors students may use the Student Academic Petition process for special requests in the same way as any other student at UNC Charlotte.

Honors Council

1. The Honors Council, as a standing committee of the faculty, reports to the University Faculty Council and is governed by the Standing Rules of the Faculty. It serves as the faculty advisory body to the Executive Director of the Honors College. It reviews honors curriculum and program proposals submitted for approval.
2. The Council consists of 11 members (one is a student), as outlined in the document, "Structure and Election Process for the Honors Council." Faculty members are elected as representatives (at-large or of each college) of the Honors Faculty as defined in the document "Honors Faculty Definition and Criteria." The honors student is appointed by the Executive Director of the Honors College. The Honors College shall maintain the list of faculty called the "Honors Faculty Roster" and oversee the administration of nomination and renewal of Honors Faculty membership, by and from which the Honors Council members are elected.
3. Representatives to the Honors Council shall elect their own chair annually.
4. The functions of the Honors Council shall be as follows:
 - a. to receive, evaluate, and approve all proposals for the establishment of honors programs;
 - b. to study programs here and elsewhere in order to ensure that high standards and an alertness to opportunity for improvement be maintained at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte;
 - c. to advise the Executive Director of the Honors College on policy;
 - d. to recommend to the Executive Director of the Honors College amendments to this document;
 - e. to serve as the faculty advisory body to the Executive Director of the Honors College.

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS COMMITTEES

1. Each college or department, or other unit offering honors programs shall designate and maintain an Honors Committee. That committee should include a faculty member designated as the program coordinator/director.
2. The functions of Honors Committees shall be as follows:
 - a. to admit students to the honors program and to determine their continuation in or removal from the program;
 - b. to recommend to the Honors College, through the Application to Candidacy process, the student be admitted to candidacy for graduation with honors recognition;

- c. to examine, or to appoint a subcommittee to examine, the candidate's capstone project/thesis;
- d. to recommend to the Honors College that the candidate, upon successful completion of the honors capstone project/thesis and any other requirements of the honors program, be graduated with honors recognition;
- e. to submit to the Honors Council recommended changes in the honors programs.

Suggested Changes to Academic Honors Policy

UNC Charlotte Academic Policy: Academic Honors

<http://provost.uncc.edu/policies/academic-honors>

I. Introduction

There is no introduction for this policy.

II. Policy Statement

CHANCELLOR'S LIST

The Chancellor's List recognizes undergraduate degree-seeking students with outstanding records of academic performance. To qualify for the Chancellor's List during the fall or spring semester, a full-time student must [be in good academic standing and](#) earn a grade point average of at least 3.8 in 12 or more semester hours of credit graded A, B, or C, with no grade less than C. A part-time student must [be in good academic standing and](#) earn a combined fall and spring grade point average of at least 3.8 in 12 or more semester hours of credit graded A, B, or C, with no grade less than C. To qualify for the Chancellor's List as a part-time student, a student must enroll on a part-time basis in both fall and spring semesters in the same academic year. Students who receive the grade of AU, H, or P are not excluded from recognition as long as 12 hours are completed with A, B, or C. Students who receive the grade of D, F, I, NR, or N are not eligible for recognition. Chancellor's List recognition appears on the student's academic record (official transcript).

DEAN'S LIST

The Dean's List recognizes undergraduate degree-seeking students with superb records of academic performance. To qualify for the Dean's List during the Fall or Spring semester, a full-time student must [be in good academic standing and](#) earn a grade point average of at least 3.4 and not more than 3.79 in 12 or more semester hours of credit graded A, B, or C, with no grade

less than a C. A part-time student must [be in good academic standing and](#) earn a combined Fall and Spring grade point average of at least 3.4 and not more than 3.79 in 12 or more semester hours of credit graded A, B, or C, with no grade less than C. To qualify for the Dean's List as a part-time student, a student must enroll on a part-time basis in both Fall and Spring semester in the same academic year.

Students who receive the grade of AU, H, or P are not excluded from recognition as long as 12 hours are completed with grades of A, B, or C. Students who receive the grade of D, F, I, NR, or N are not eligible for recognition. Dean's List recognition appears on the student's academic record (official transcript).

GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION

Students may earn undergraduate degrees at different levels of distinction: Cum Laude ("With Honor"), Magna Cum Laude ("With Great Honor"), and Summa Cum Laude ("With Highest Honor"). Each of the undergraduate degrees is awarded Cum Laude when the graduating student's cumulative grade point average is 3.4 or more but less than 3.7, Magna Cum Laude when it is at least 3.7 but less than 3.9, and Summa Cum Laude when it is at least 3.9. To be eligible to graduate with distinction, a student must [be in good academic standing and](#) have a grade point average computed on at least 48 semester hours of credit completed in residence at UNC Charlotte.