

# Standards of Academic Progress

These standards of progress shall apply to all students unless noted in the following exceptions.

- Programs within the institution that are subject to external licensure, certification, and/or accreditation or which are fewer than four semesters in length may have higher standards of progress than the institutional standards of progress.
- Selected transfer students will be placed on Academic Probation upon admission and must transition to these standards of academic progress.
- Special standards of academic progress have been established for students enrolled in institutional credit courses carrying optional grades and for students who wish to remain eligible to receive Title IV financial aid.

## 1. **Definition of Terms Related to Standards of Progress Policy**

### **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

The grade point average is based on all hours attempted during any one term at the institution based on a 4-point scale.

### **Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)**

The grade point average is based on all hours attempted at the institution based on a 4-point scale.

### **Clear Academic Status**

The status of a student whose cumulative grade point average (CGPA) is at or above the level required by this policy for the number of credit hours attempted at the institution.

### **Academic Probation**

The status of a student whose academic status the previous term was Clear and whose cumulative grade point average falls below the level required by this policy for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution; or

The status of a student who was on Academic Probation the previous term and whose cumulative GPA remained below the level required by this policy for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution but whose GPA for the term was 2.0 or above; or

The status of a student who has re-entered the institution after being suspended for one term or one year (or after being granted readmission upon appeal).

### **Academic Suspension**

#### *One-Term Academic Suspension*

The status of a student who was on Academic Probation the previous term but who has never been suspended or who, since the suspension, had achieved Clear Academic Status and whose cumulative GPA that term was below the level required by this policy for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution and whose GPA for that term was below 2.0.

#### *One-Year Academic Suspension*

The status of a student who was on Academic Probation the previous term and who had been previously suspended without having achieved Clear Academic Status and whose cumulative GPA that term remained below the level required by this policy for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution and whose GPA for that term was below 2.0.

### **Appeal of Academic Suspension**

#### *One-Term Academic Suspension Appeal*

The process by which students (native or transfer) who are on a one-term academic suspension may appeal the suspension by contacting an academic advisor and requesting to participate in the Intervention for Student Success Program. Students participating in the intervention program will be permitted to re-enroll at Southern Union.

#### *One-Year Academic Suspension Appeal*

The process by which students (native or transfer) who are on a one-year (three semester) suspension and have served at least one semester may file an [Academic Suspension Appeal](#) to request to return to college before the year of suspension is served. The Academic Suspension Appeal must be submitted by the published “last class day” date in the semester preceding the term the student is petitioning to re-enroll. The appeal deadlines for each semester are outlined on the [Admissions and Records web page](#) under the Academic Suspension Appeal section.

## 2. **Standards of Progress Policy**

Required GPA levels for students according to the number of hours attempted at the institution:

- Students who have attempted 12-21 semester credit hours at the institution must maintain a 1.5 cumulative grade point average.
- Students who have attempted 22-32 semester credit hours at the institution must maintain a 1.75 cumulative grade point average.
- Students who have attempted 33 semester or more credit hours at the institution must maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.

### 3. Application of Standards of Progress

- When the cumulative GPA is at or above the GPA required for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution, the student's status is Clear.
- When a student's cumulative GPA is below the GPA required for the number of credit hours attempted at the institution, the student is placed on Academic Probation.
- When the cumulative GPA of a student who is on Academic Probation remains below the GPA required for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution but the term GPA is 2.0 or above, the student remains on Academic Probation. When the cumulative GPA of a student who is on Academic Probation remains below the GPA required for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution and the term GPA is below 2.0, the student is suspended for one term. The transcript will read SUSPENDED—ONE SEMESTER.
- The student who is suspended for one term may appeal. The student who is readmitted upon appeal re-enters the institution on Academic Probation. The student who serves one-semester academic suspension re-enters the institution on Academic Probation.
- A student who is on Academic Probation after being suspended for one term (whether the student has served the suspension or has been readmitted upon appeal) without having since achieved Clear academic status and whose cumulative GPA falls below the level required for the total number of hours attempted at the institution but whose term GPA is 2.0 or above will remain on Academic Probation until the student achieves the required GPA for the total number of hours attempted.  
A student who is on Academic Probation after being suspended for one term (whether the student served the suspension or was readmitted upon appeal) without having since achieved Clear academic status and whose cumulative GPA remains below the level required for the total number of hours attempted at the institution and whose term GPA is below 2.0 will be suspended for one calendar year. The transcript will read SUSPENDED—ONE YEAR.
- Students who have been suspended for one year must serve at least one semester of the suspension before an appeal can be filed. If, upon appeal, the student is readmitted, the transcript will read SUSPENDED—ONE YEAR/ READMITTED UPON APPEAL.

**Note:** *Students wishing to return to Southern Union after being placed on one-year academic suspension must serve one full semester before an appeal can be submitted. Whether the year suspension is served or readmission upon appeal is granted, the student re-enters the institution on Academic Probation. All applicable academic designations except Clear will appear on the student's transcript.*

### 4. Transfer Students

- A transfer student who is admitted on Clear academic status is subject to the same standards of academic progress as a "native" student. Grades accrued at other regionally accredited postsecondary institutions are not included in GPA calculation.
- A transfer student who is admitted on Academic Probation retains the status until the student has attempted at least 12 semester credit hours at the institution. If, at the conclusion of the term in which the student has attempted a total of 12 or more semester credit hours at the institution, the cumulative GPA at the institution is below 1.5, the student is suspended for one term. The transcript will read SUSPENDED ONE SEMESTER.
- If at the conclusion of the term in which the transfer student admitted on Academic Probation has attempted a total of 12 or more credit hours at the institution, the cumulative GPA at the institution is 1.5 or above, the student's status is Clear.
- Transfer students on suspension may file an Academic Suspension Appeal.