

## Academic Standing

### Good Academic Standing

A student is considered to be in “good academic standing” when the student successfully maintains a satisfactory cumulative grade point average (GPA) (i.e., as identified by the University). A student who is in good academic standing is entitled to all the rights and privileges of enrollment at St. Ambrose University, such as continuing enrollment for the next semester, eligibility for financial aid, and participation in intercollegiate athletics. The minimum cumulative GPA required for a student to be in good standing is specified below.

	END OF FIRST SEMESTER	END OF SECOND SEMESTER
First-year students	1.80 (0-15 cr)	2.00 (16-30 cr)
Second-year students	2.00 (31-45 cr)	2.00 (46-60 cr)
Third-year students	2.00 (61-75 cr)	2.00 (76-90 cr)
Fourth-year students	2.00 (91-105 cr)	2.00 (106-120+ cr)

Please note the following:

- These thresholds represent institutional minimums. Individual academic programs may require students to maintain a higher cumulative grade point average.
- A student’s failure to maintain good academic standing may impact their eligibility for both federal and institutional financial aid.
- The fact that a student maintains good academic standing does not, in and of itself, ensure their continued eligibility for financial aid. Please see the section on financial aid for more information about financial aid eligibility.

### Academic Probation and Suspension for Undergraduate Students

St. Ambrose University reviews the academic standing of all students at the conclusion of each semester. Students who are not in good academic standing (i.e., who fail to maintain the required cumulative GPA) will, at minimum, be placed on academic probation for the subsequent semester. Students who achieve a semester GPA of 1.00 or lower will also be placed on probation for the following semester (irrespective of whether their cumulative GPA falls below the minimum standard). Students who are otherwise in good academic standing and whose semester GPA falls below 1.8 (but exceeds 1.0) will receive a letter of concern (irrespective of whether their cumulative GPA falls below the minimum standard).

The purpose of academic probation is to communicate to a student that their academic performance places their ability to graduate from the University in question. A student’s probationary status and the duration of their probationary status (i.e., a semester, at minimum) is intended to provide them with an opportunity to improve their academic performance (e.g., by strengthening their academic abilities and by accessing various University resources).

The potential outcomes for a student who has been placed on probation because their cumulative GPA has fallen below the minimum, cumulative standard (i.e., 2.0) are as follows:

- If, at the conclusion of the subsequent semester, the student’s cumulative GPA has risen above the minimum standard, the student is released from probation.
- If, at the conclusion of the subsequent semester, the student’s cumulative GPA has not risen above the minimum standard, but their semester GPA has risen above the minimum standard, the student remains on probation. For example, a student’s semester GPA might be 2.32 while their cumulative GPA remains at 1.91.
- If, at the conclusion of the subsequent semester, neither the student’s cumulative GPA nor the student’s semester GPA has risen above the minimum standard, the student will be suspended from the university.

The potential outcomes for a student who has been placed on probation because their semester GPA has fallen to 1.0 or lower are as follows:

- If at the conclusion of the subsequent semester or term the student's semester GPA has risen above the minimum standard (i.e., 2.0), the student is released from probation.
- If at the conclusion of the subsequent semester or term the student's semester GPA has not risen above the minimum standard (i.e., 2.0), the student will remain on probation or be suspended from the University, as appropriate.

Probationary status is not subject to appeal. Students who have been suspended for failure to maintain good academic standing have the right to appeal their suspension. All appeals of an academic suspension must be submitted in writing to the Registrar and must include the following:

- A statement explaining why the student has not succeeded in achieving good academic standing for two consecutive semesters.
- A plan detailing how the student will improve their academic performance.
- A written statement supporting the student's appeal from a St. Ambrose University faculty or staff member.

A student's initial appeal of suspension is heard by the Board of Studies (i.e., a faculty committee). Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of their initial appeal may make a subsequent appeal to the Office of the Provost, whose decision is final.

Students who have been suspended for academic reasons are not eligible to apply for readmission until two subsequent semesters have elapsed (e.g., spring and summer, or summer and fall). If readmitted, students return on probationary status and must attain, minimally, a 2.0 semester GPA at the conclusion of the semester of their readmission in order to remain enrolled in the university.

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