



Probation and Academic Dismissal Policy

1. **Immediate Dismissal:** A student who attains a cumulative grade point average below 1.75 in the first semester of law school or upon completing or attempting 14 credit hours, whichever occurs later, will be dismissed. This rule does not apply to transfer students.
2. **Academic Probation:** A student whose cumulative grade point average is below 2.25 at the end of any fall or spring semester will be placed on academic probation, and must raise his or her cumulative grade point average to at least 2.25 by the end of the next semester and summer adjoining the next semester in which the student enrolls. A student is eligible for probation only once; if a student's cumulative grade point average again falls below 2.25 after any subsequent fall or spring semester, the student will be dismissed.
3. **Readmission Policy and Procedures**
 - a. **General matters**
 - i. A student who has been dismissed from the law school for academic reasons may petition for readmission only as provided in this policy. The petition must include an affirmative showing that the student's prior performance does not indicate a lack of capacity to complete the program of legal education and be admitted to the bar. A student petitioning for readmission must also update the character-and-fitness answers on his or her admission application and complete a [Re-Enrollment Form](#).
 - ii. The Academic Affairs Committee will issue a decision in writing; this decision will constitute the law school's final decision and is not appealable. The student's petition for readmission and the decision of the Academic Affairs Committee will be retained in the student's academic file. A readmitted student will be required to participate in academic and financial aid counseling as a condition of readmission, and the Committee may also place other conditions on a student's readmission.
 - iii. Readmission is not a matter of right; instead, it is within the sound discretion of the Academic Affairs Committee

- b. Readmission as a New Student:** Any student dismissed for academic reasons may petition for readmission as a new, first-semester student. The petition may be submitted no earlier than one semester after the student's dismissal, and will be considered by the Academic Affairs Committee. If granted, readmission will be effective no earlier than one year after the student's dismissal. The readmitted student will start over as a new, first-semester student. Placement on probation before academic dismissal will not disqualify a student from being eligible for probation following readmission as a new student.
- c. Readmission as a Continuing Student:**

 - i. A student dismissed for academic reasons after successfully completing at least 31 or more graded credit hours toward the J.D. degree may elect (a) to petition for readmission as a new student under Section 3b above or (b) to petition immediately for readmission as a continuing student.
 - ii. The petition will be considered by the Academic Affairs Committee, and the student must sit out one semester while the petition is being considered. If readmitted, the student may be allowed to re-enter as a continuing student, with credit for earlier work, but the student will be required to repeat all required courses in which he or she received a grade of "C" or lower. Any repeated courses will be included in the grade point average calculation—along with the grade in the original course—but will count only once toward the 90-hour graduation requirement.
 - iii. Any student readmitted as a continuing student must raise his or her overall GPA to 2.25 or higher by the end of the semester in which the student re enrolls. A student who is dismissed and then readmitted as a continuing student is not eligible for probation in a subsequent semester. A student who is offered readmission as a continuing student may elect instead to enter as a new, first-semester student.
 - iv. If the Academic Affairs Committee determines that it would be inappropriate to grant credit for a readmitted student's earlier work, the student must start over as a first-semester student and is eligible for probation notwithstanding the placement on probation before dismissal.
- 4. Standards for Readmission:** A student seeking readmission to the law school must make an affirmative showing that his or her prior performance does not indicate a lack of capacity to complete the program of legal education and be

admitted to the bar. In considering any petition for readmission, the Academic Affairs Committee will place particular emphasis on the following factors:

- a. how close the student's GPA is to the 1.75 or 2.25 minimum;
 - b. whether the student has shown improvement since the first semester;
 - c. whether the student is consistently performing at or below a "C+" level, or whether he or she has shown the ability to do "B-" or better work in at least a few courses;
 - i. whether the student has taken clear steps to improve performance, such as participating in academic support programs since first going on probation;
 - ii. whether specific, unique circumstances may have contributed to the student's unacceptable performance, and whether those circumstances have clearly changed.
5. **No Repeat Readmissions:** No student readmitted and dismissed a second time will be considered for a second readmission either by the Academic Affairs Committee or through the normal admission process.
6. **Petition for Readmission Was Rejected:** A student whose petition for readmission has been rejected by the Academic Affairs Committee may not submit a subsequent petition to the Committee, but may seek readmission through the normal admission process (but in no case shall a student be readmitted without the affirmative vote of the faculty Admissions Committee). Such application may be made no sooner than two years from the end of the semester after which the student was dismissed for academic reasons.
7. **Application to the Admissions Committee After Two Years:** If an eligible student seeking readmission applies two or more years after the date on which the student was dismissed for academic reasons, the student must apply through the normal admission process (but in no case shall a student be readmitted without the affirmative vote of the faculty Admissions Committee) and, if admitted, must start over as a first-semester student. The student is eligible for probation notwithstanding any placement on probation before the student's dismissal.

Faculty policy revised December 15, 2017; effective for the Spring 2018 semester.