ACADEMIC STANDING

Academic standing is based on a student's overall grade point average (GPA), exclusive of transfer work. The grade point average alone, however, does not tell the full story of a student’s academic performance, as student may use late drops or grade option conversions to inflate the GPA. Additionally, a student who has performed well for several semesters may hit a snag and have a semester or two of low grades before reaching Academic Probation.

1. Good Standing and Dean’s List

A student’s overall GPA is at 2.000 or higher. The student is eligible to take up to 21 credits without an advisor’s authorization. When reviewing a request for a credit overload, look at how many credits the student has successfully completed in the most recent 2 or 3 semesters, then add one course to get the maximum recommended load. The advisor and student need to be realistic about what can reasonably be accomplished.

- Dean’s List distinction is awarded when the term GPA is 3.5 or greater in at least 9 credits with no grades of C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F, NC or NCR.
- Grade changes after “grade roll” do not alter a student’s academic standing
- Academic standing is not retroactively changed when the GPA is recalculated following a course repeat

2. Academic Probation

A student’s overall grade point average is below a 2.000. Once on probation, the student must maintain a term GPA of 2.000 or higher to avoid academic suspension. Topics to discuss with the probation student:

- What do they view as the primary reasons for their unsatisfactory performance?
- Are there any campus resources they need to utilize to be successful?
- Are they in the right major (or do they need additional skill development to be successful in that major)?
- What are the repercussions (financial and academic) of continued low performance?

3. Suspension

No student is suspended after a single semester of bad grades, nor does one grade ever “cause a student to be suspended.” If a student has otherwise performed well, that one bad grade won’t have dire consequences. A student is suspended if, after a semester of probation, he or she fails to achieve a term grade point average of 2.00 or higher. The student will be eligible to apply for reinstatement following a semester away from UM.

- Academic suspension is not synonymous with Financial Aid Suspension, although they sometimes go hand-in-hand.
- Encourage the student to consider how to use the time away from school to succeed when they return.
- Students may not attend another MUS institution while on Suspension.
- Summer, Autumn and Spring are considered “semesters”. A student suspended after the spring term can sit out the summer and apply for fall reinstatement.

4. Appeal of Suspension

A student has the option to appeal a suspension and return to the university without sitting out a semester. Appeals are considered where the student has otherwise demonstrated an ability to succeed at the university and the compelling circumstances that led to the poor performance have been resolved.
- Appeals forms/protocols are in production and should be available by the end of the Spring 2014 semester.

5. Reinstatement

Students typically apply for reinstatement to the college of their last matriculation. They will work with the reinstatement coordinator of that unit to develop a reasonable plan for getting back into good academic planning. The student may be subject to course restrictions.

6. Academic Forgiveness

Academic Forgiveness was developed for students who had one or more poor semesters of academic work, left the university for 3 or more years, and demonstrated their ability to be successful upon their return.
- Student must have completed 30 degree credits with a GPA of 2.5 or higher to apply for Academic Forgiveness.
- Whole semesters are affected; students cannot select individual grades within a prior semester to remove from grade point average.
- Grades remain on transcript with a “E” prefix to exclude the grade from the GPA.
- Academic Forgiveness is marked on the transcript as indicated below.
Additional information and the application form are available at [http://www.umt.edu/registrar/academicforgivenesspolicy.aspx](http://www.umt.edu/registrar/academicforgivenesspolicy.aspx).

### Grade Point Average Calculation Chart

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</tbody>
</table>

GPA = Total Quality Points ÷ Total # of Credits

### 8. “Red Flags” for Academic Difficulty
It is important for the advisor to look for potential red flags, and to discuss them with the advisee. The student may need to access additional campus resources such as Financial Aid, Career Services, or Counseling Services. Red flags include:

- Repeated drops or grade option conversions, especially in foundational courses for a major.
- Consistent pattern of dropping one or two courses each semester.
- Pattern of avoidance of coursework in an area (most frequently either math or writing).
- Low ratio of credits completed relative to attempted credits.
- Change of major after 60 or more attempted credits.