

ACADEMIC PROBATION AND PROGRESS TOWARD THE DEGREE

What does “probation” mean?

This designation indicates to the student and to their advisor that the student is encountering serious academic difficulty and must take steps immediately to improve their academic record. Students on probation are not in *immediate* danger of being disqualified from further study at the College, and the majority of students on probation recover quickly from their academic problems. Probation status is serious, however, and if probation occurs a second time, it places a student below the “Minimum Academic Standards for Continuation.” Students who fall below these standards are at risk of being disqualified from further study at Skidmore (see other side of this sheet).

How does a student earn probation status?

If a student's grade point average for a single semester falls below 2.000, or if the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 2.000, they are placed on “probation.” The designation “probation” appears on the grade report and permanent transcript next to the semester grade point average.

What happens next?

The Office of Academic Advising sends letters to all students on probation urging them to see their faculty advisors and recommending a meeting with a member of the Office of Academic Advising. Both consultations are an effort to clarify the situation with the student, to explore the problems that might have led to the probation, to plan a course of action for the upcoming semester, to acquaint the student with support services at Skidmore, and to review the minimum academic standards for continuation.

What other consequences are there for the student on probation?

One's academic standing at Skidmore is of the greatest importance, and students in severe academic jeopardy should devote all of their attention to improving their records. Students proposing an internship for credit must have a 2.000 or better total GPA and not be on academic probation. The Student Government Association disallows students from holding office if the student's cumulative average falls below 2.000. According to Skidmore and NCAA Division III Standards, a student's eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics is also jeopardized by an unsatisfactory academic record. In addition, the Office of Off-Campus Study & Exchanges (OCSE) will not permit a student on academic probation to apply for off-campus study because students must be in good academic standing to be eligible to study off-campus. OCSE and the Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) require that a student on probation have at least one semester of strong grades before they will consider approving the student to study off-campus. Students who have been approved to study off-campus who subsequently earn probation are also disqualified from studying off-campus. The Committee on Academic Standing and the Office of Academic Advising recommend that students on probation limit their involvement in all co-curricular and athletic pursuits in order to concentrate on academic achievement.

MINIMUM ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR CONTINUATION

Skidmore's Committee on Academic Standing observes four principles when determining full-time matriculated students' eligibility to continue their studies at the College:

1. Each student must meet or exceed semester-by-semester minimum standards for grade point average.
2. A student risks being dismissed from Skidmore when they earn a *second* probation warning (the second occurrence of a term or cumulative GPA below 2.000).
3. A student's GPA in the major field of study must be at least 2.000 by the end of the junior year and thereafter or the student risks being dismissed.
4. A student must complete the all-College requirements in a timely and successful fashion (see the timetable in the *Catalog*).

The Committee on Academic Standing may grant a "waiver" of these minimal standards for continuation in order to improve the student's academic standing.

NOTE: To remain in good academic standing and to assure their continuation at the College, students must meet **all four** of the standards described above.

NOTE: GPA credits earned by a student prior to the first semester (such as grades earned in Skidmore summer programs, in the HEOP/AOP summer program, etc.) do not factor into Academic Review decisions for these students.

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