Academic Standards

Academic Obligations

All students are expected to be diligent in the pursuit of their courses of study in order that both they and the State receive maximum benefit from the educational opportunities provided. Each student is responsible for his or her enrollments and timely adds, drops and withdrawals following campus policy.

Students are expected to satisfy the academic demands required by their instructors in such ways as they may set forth, in order to satisfy the instructor that they are performing their assignments in a proper manner.

Instructors are expected to give first priority to meeting their scheduled classes and other assigned responsibilities, including keeping regular office hours for student conferences.

In classroom settings, instructors have the authority and responsibility to establish rules, maintain order, and to dismiss students from a class session for violation of the rules or misconduct. Violations or misconduct warranting more than a single dismissal from a class session should be referred by the instructor to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (756-2794) for disciplinary action.

Uniform standards for academic probation or disqualification, and for administrative-academic probation or disqualification, are in effect at all campuses of the California State University. Undergraduate students may be placed on academic probation and later be disqualified, or be placed on administrative-academic probation and later be disqualified, when they do not meet these standards.

Students who have been placed on academic probation, administrative-academic probation, or who have been notified of their disqualification may request review of such action by the dean of the college taking the action. Students who have been disqualified for inadequate progress or performance are not readmitted until presentation of satisfactory evidence that they have improved their chances of academic success. The request for readmission is referred to the dean of the college in which the student wishes to enroll.

Students on academic probation may not participate on intercollegiate teams nor may they hold positions of leadership in student organizations or student government groups. These include, but are not limited to, such groups as: athletic teams, debate teams, drama casts, judging teams, ASI councils, boards and committees. Such students may not hold an office in a student organization, nor may they be editors, managers, or hold similar positions on student publications. However, students on academic probation may participate in such activities as club membership, intramurals, and music that do not include travel and the official representation of the University.

Certain groups may have set higher standards than the minimum for specific positions or areas of responsibility that require considerable commitments of time and energy.

Academic Probation and Disqualification

The quality of academic performance is considered in the determination of a student's eligibility to remain enrolled. An undergraduate student becomes subject to academic probation or disqualification under the conditions shown below. For minimum scholarship standards applicable to graduate and post-baccalaureate students see the Graduate Programs section.

I. Academic Probation

An undergraduate student is automatically placed on academic probation when the grade point average drops below 2.0 (C). The grade point average applies to the current term (unadjusted for any subsequent grade forgiveness), the Cal Poly cumulative, or the higher education cumulative. The student is advised promptly, by email or other means, of being placed on probation. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the Office of Academic Records of address changes.

An undergraduate student is removed from academic probation when the current term, Cal Poly cumulative, and higher education cumulative grade point averages are all 2.0 or higher.

II. Academic Disqualification

A. An undergraduate student on academic probation for two consecutive terms is subject to academic disqualification.

B. An undergraduate student on academic probation is also subject to academic disqualification when:

(1) As a freshman (fewer than 45 quarter units of college credit completed) the student falls below a grade point average of 1.50 in all units attempted (higher education GPA) or in all units attempted at Cal Poly (Cal Poly cumulative GPA).

(2) As a sophomore (45 through 89 quarter units of college credit completed) the student falls below a grade point average of 1.70 in all units attempted (higher education GPA) or in all units attempted at Cal Poly (Cal Poly cumulative GPA).

(3) As a junior (90 to 134 quarter units of college credit completed) the student falls below a grade point average of 1.85 in all units attempted (higher education GPA) or in all units attempted at Cal Poly (Cal Poly cumulative GPA).

(4) As a senior (135 or more quarter units of college credit completed) the student falls below a grade point average of 1.95 in all units attempted (higher education GPA) or in all units attempted at Cal Poly (Cal Poly cumulative GPA).

C. In addition to the above disqualification standards applicable to students on probation, the President may designate a campus official to act to disqualify an
individual not on probation when the following circumstances exist:

1. At the end of any term, the student has a cumulative grade point average (higher education or Cal Poly) below 1.0, and
2. The cumulative grade point average is so low that in view of the student's overall educational record, it seems unlikely that the deficiency will be removed within a reasonable period.

III. Notice of Disqualification
Students who are disqualified at the end of a quarter are notified before the beginning of the next consecutive regular quarter. Students disqualified at the beginning of a summer enrollment break are notified at least one month before the start of the fall quarter.

Notification may occur by email or other means. A student is considered notified if he/she has previously received a written academic contract and has failed to meet its terms, making the student subject to disqualification. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Office of Academic Records of address changes.

In cases where a student ordinarily would be disqualified at the end of a term save for the impossibility of making timely notification, the student may be advised by the student's school dean that the disqualification is to be effective at the end of the next term. Such notification includes any condition which, if met, would result in permission to continue in enrollment. Failure to notify a student does not create the right of that student to continue enrollment.

IV. Administrative-Academic Probation
An undergraduate or graduate student may be placed on administrative-academic probation by action of the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled for any of the following reasons:

A. Withdrawal from all or a substantial portion of a program of studies in two successive terms or in any three terms. (Note: a student whose withdrawal is directly associated with a chronic or recurring medical condition or its treatment is not subject to administrative-academic probation for such withdrawal.)

B. Repeated failure to progress toward the stated degree or program objective, including that resulting from assignment of 15 units of NC, when such failure appears to be due to circumstances outside the control of the student.

C. Failure to comply, after due notice, with an academic requirement or regulation which is routine for all students or a defined group of students.

When such action is taken, the student is notified in writing and is provided with the conditions for removal from probation and the circumstances which would lead to disqualification, should probation not be removed.

Academic Petitions
Academic petitions are handled through the academic affairs division of the University. The process of review may include the academic department, academic advising offices, administrative offices, and/or college dean's office. Typical academic petitions include, but are not limited to, transferring from one program to another, academic requirement or policy deviation requests, and admission/re-admission issues. Contact the appropriate office for specific academic petition procedures.

Academic Petition Appeals
Following a petition decision, and under limited circumstances, students may appeal to the Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Undergraduate Education or his/her designee. The right to an appeal is not guaranteed and an appeal is only granted if the student can show that one or more of the following exist:

1. A requirement or policy was incorrectly applied to the petition.
2. A requirement or policy is unclear or ambiguous.
3. There is new information that should be considered in the evaluation of the petition.
4. There are special circumstances warranting the granting of the appeal.

The granting of an academic petition appeal gives students the opportunity to present the merits of their petition to the Vice Provost. The Vice Provost's decisions regarding appeals represent the University's final decision on academic petitions. Contact the Office of Academic Programs at 756-2246 for more information on the procedures for filing an academic petition appeal.

Student Grievances
The University provides students with a variety of mechanisms to address student grievances or concerns. In all such matters, the University encourages students to attempt to resolve their grievance or concern at the source of the issue (i.e., with the professor, department chair or administrator, or college associate dean). The Dean of Students’ Office (756-0327) is available to any campus community member to assist with identifying and clarifying appropriate campus policies and procedures for addressing student grievances or concerns.

For general questions about grievances, contact the Dean of Students’ Office, 756-0327. The following list contains the offices or programs designated to address the more common student grievances at the University:

Grade Grievances – The Fairness Board: Contact the Academic Senate Office, 756-1258 (See page 16 for more detail on the functions of this Board)

Student or Student Club Misconduct – Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, 756-2794 (See page 29 for more detail on the functions of this Office)
Eligibility for Intercollegiate Athletics
Eligibility for competition in intercollegiate athletics is regulated in general by the rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and specifically by current Conference and university regulations. The Director of Athletics is responsible for maintaining up-to-date intercollegiate athletics eligibility rules applicable to the University. The Faculty Athletic Representative has the responsibility for the interpretation of the NCAA, Conference, and university rules for determining student eligibility to represent the University in intercollegiate athletic events.

Eligibility for Student Activities
Students on either academic or disciplinary probation may not participate on intercollegiate teams nor may they hold positions of leadership in chartered student organizations or coded student government groups. Students on probation may participate in such student organizations and groups as members but they may not hold an office or represent the University or the Associated Students, Incorporated, in any official capacity.

Student Conduct and Discipline
It is expected that all Cal Poly students are enrolled for serious educational pursuits and that they conduct themselves so as to preserve an appropriate atmosphere of learning. It is also expected that all students who enroll at Cal Poly are willing to assume the responsibilities of citizenship in the campus community. Association in such a community is voluntary, and students may withdraw from it at any time that they consider the obligations of membership disproportionate to the benefits. While enrolled, students are subject to campus authority that includes the prerogative of dismissing those whose conduct is inimical to the aims of an institution of higher education.

While enrolled, students are subject to the regulations governing discipline stated in Education Code Section 66017 and in Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 41301–41302, and to such rules and regulations as have been approved and promulgated by authority of the President. Copies of Title 5 California Code of Regulations 41301 and 41302, which deal specifically with student disciplinary regulations, are available to all students in the "Appendix" of this catalog. Other applicable regulations are contained in this Catalog, in the Campus Administrative Policies, the Standards for Student Conduct, Rights and Responsibilities, and in other official university publications, including the Cal Poly web site.