

## **ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE STANDARD**

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

These academic standards are based on two primary principles: 1) early identification of students encountering academic challenge is in the best interest of the student and the faculty and 2) when students do not meet a minimum academic standard (C-), the sooner they can remediate the content, the better.

### **GENERAL ACADEMIC POLICIES**

A cumulative GPA of 2.0 in required courses is necessary to begin Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience.

A student who has been dismissed or has withdrawn from the College of Pharmacy and subsequently readmitted will be subject to the current curriculum and regulations on academic warning, probation, suspension, and dismissal.

A student who is on academic probation is not permitted to withdraw or drop pharmacy classes unless approved to do so by the Academic and Professional Standards Committee.

A student must repeat all required pharmacy courses, exclusive of elective courses, in which an E grade was received. Students must earn a satisfactory grade (i.e. C- or better) for all repeated course work prior to consideration for graduation.

A student will not be allowed to graduate until the conditions of academic or conduct probation have been satisfied.

A student who has completed the professional curriculum but who does not attain a minimum 2.00 cumulative grade point average in required pharmacy courses as well as a minimum 2.0 grade point average for all courses while enrolled in the College of Pharmacy shall not be considered for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOLADES**

#### **Dean's Honor Roll**

Pharmacy students who achieve a 3.5 GPA in required pharmacy courses during a semester will be listed on the Dean's Honor Roll. Students must take at least 12 semester credits of required

courses (excluding electives) to qualify for the academic honor. Students receiving an I, N or U grade during the semester will not be considered for the Dean's Honor Roll. Students in the third professional year in the spring semester are eligible for the Dean's Honor Roll with a minimum of 12 credit hours inclusive of two credits of pharmacy elective coursework.

### **Academic Honors**

#### **Graduation with Cum Laude**

- Completion of all pharmacy coursework in the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum.
- A grade point average of 3.50 or higher in required pharmacy courses.

#### **Graduation with Magna Cum Laude**

- Completion of all pharmacy coursework in the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum.
- A grade point average of 3.60 – 3.79 in required pharmacy courses.
- Completion of a project, submission of a report, and presentation via adherence to College of Pharmacy guidelines.
- Approval by the student's supervisor, the supervisor's department chair, and the Graduate Studies Council.

#### **Graduation with Summa Cum Laude**

- Completion of all pharmacy coursework in the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum.
- A grade point average of 3.80 or higher in required pharmacy courses.
- Completion of a project, submission of a report, and presentation via adherence to College of Pharmacy guidelines.
- Approval by the student's supervisor, supervisor's department chair, and Graduate Studies Council.

## **ACADEMIC STANDING**

### **Good Academic Standing**

Good Academic Standing is defined as current term and cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 in required courses and successful completion of milestones at predetermined points in the curriculum.

### **Academic Warning**

Warning occurs after any of the following:

- earning a semester GPA below 2.0 in required courses
- earning less than a C in an individual required course

A student on academic warning is required to submit a self-directed academic action plan to their faculty advisor for how they will improve their academic performance in the following

semester. The student is also required to meet with their faculty advisor and discuss their plan for improved academic performance.

### **Academic Probation**

Probation occurs after any of the following:

- earning a grade of E
- 2 or more grades of D+, D, or D- in required courses
- cumulative GPA below 2.0 in required courses

A student on academic probation cannot represent the college by holding office in a student organization nor through college-associated travel. A student on academic probation is required to submit a self-directed academic action plan to their faculty advisor and meet with them to discuss and revise the plan. The student should then submit the self-directed academic action plan to the Office of Student Affairs and meet with them to discuss their plan for improved academic performance.

Students on probation due to earning a grade of E will be cleared from academic probation after repeating the course, earning a grade of C- or better in the repeated course, and completing two subsequent full-time semesters with no additional grades of D+, D, D-, or E. Students on probation due to earning 2 or more grades of D+, D, or D- may be cleared from academic probation after two subsequent full-time semesters with no additional grades of D+, D, D-, or E. Failure to be cleared from academic probation will result in dismissal from the college. Students on probation due to a cumulative GPA below 2.0 may be cleared from academic probation when their cumulative GPA is increased to at least 2.0. Failure to increase the cumulative GPA to at least 2.0 after two subsequent full-time semesters will result in dismissal from the college.

### **Academic Dismissal**

Dismissal from the College occurs after any of the following:

- failure to clear academic probation after two full semesters
- earning 2 grades of E in the same course
- receiving a third grade of E in any combination of courses in the PharmD curriculum
- Failure to successfully pass a course after taking it for a second time either in its entirety or during remediation.
- 7 years after beginning the program (if all degree requirements have still not been met).

Students who are dismissed from the College for any of these reasons may request readmission by submitting a petition to the Academic and Professional Standards Committee.

## **REMEDIATION**

### **Focused Reassessment**

If a student achieves a D+, D, or D- in a required course and this grade is due to a failing grade on a single assessment within the course, the faculty member will offer an assessment retake in the weeks immediately following the term, unless it is not relevant to the pedagogy and/or assessments used in the course. The student will complete a self-directed study and take the assessment. The student will need to achieve  $\geq 70\%$  on the reassessment and the final grade for the course would be recorded as a C-. If the student does not achieve  $\geq 70\%$  on the reassessment, their original grade will be the final recorded course grade and this will lead to required course remediation.

### **Course Remediation**

If a student achieves a D+, D, or D- in a course and this grade is based on more than one failed assessment, the student will be given a second opportunity to successfully pass the course with a C- or better. The student may choose to either retake the course in its entirety at the next class offering or remediate during the summer. No more than two courses may be remediated in a summer term. The process for course remediation is dependent on the original course, type of pedagogy used, etc. The number of assessments should be similar to the number in the original course and will be based on pre-defined student learning outcomes. Students would register for the course to be remediated in the summer. Remediation would proceed according to the plan outlined in the syllabus.

Student learning in course remediation is self-directed; the student should initiate contact with the faculty member regarding course remediation. The maximum length of course remediation is 6 weeks or no longer than the original duration of the course, if less than 6 weeks. If a student does not achieve  $\geq 70\%$  average on assessments in course remediation, it will result in dismissal from the College.

In most courses, the self-directed remediation process will involve the student independently re-studying the course materials and taking the assessments at date established by the instructor. Some courses (e.g. Personal and Professional Development, Professional Practice Skills Lab) will have remediation dependent on the learning needs and assessment methods.

### **Course Failure**

If a student receives an E in a course, he/she will be required to retake the course at the next full term offering. This will lead to a modified plan of study for the student. In rare instances, a student who fails a course but has excelled in other coursework may be allowed to remediate the failed course in the summer at the discretion of the Academic and Professional Standards Committee. As a general rule, a student will only be allowed to repeat one year of the four year curriculum due to poor academic performance. An exception to the rule may be made if 80% of the voting members of the APSC approve.

## **PETITIONS**

A student may petition the Academic and Professional Standards Committee for an exemption from the academic standard applied. Each student is responsible for submitting his/her own petition. The Academic and Professional Standards Committee of the College of Pharmacy will act on all petitions concerning internal matters within the College of Pharmacy. The University Senate Committee on Student Petitions acts on all other matters. Students may seek guidance from the Office for Student Affairs in all matters concerning petitions. The Dean may review appeals on the decisions of the Academic and Professional Standards Committee.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **Does the Academic Performance Standard apply to all courses?**

The Academic Performance Standard applies only to required courses. The GPA that is considered is based on required courses only; elective courses are excluded from the GPA calculation. Similarly, elective courses will not be remediated if a student earns a grade lower than C-.

#### **Specifically, what are the “milestones” that are required for good academic standing?**

Examples of milestones are OSCEs, PCOA, etc. A complete list may be found at <http://pharmacy.ufl.edu/education/student-affairs/doctor-of-pharmacy-curriculum-2015/>

#### **If students don't have to remediate a C-, then why does a C- trigger a student to be placed on Academic Warning?**

A C- triggers Academic Warning to caution the student that they are nearing a threshold for minimum competency. The purpose is to force the student to reflect on their academic action plan and identify potential changes they could make to improve their academic performance.

#### **What is a “self-directed academic action plan”?**

A self-directed action plan is a reflection by the student on what factors, actions, and behaviors led to their poor academic performance and what strategies does the student plan to implement to improve their academic performance. The action plan will serve as a basis for discussion with the faculty advisor and/or the Office of Student Affairs where they will receive feedback on their plan and additional suggestions for academic success. A guide for a self-directed action plan will be developed for students.

#### **How will the student know they need to meet with their faculty advisor or the Office of Student Affairs?**

The student will receive a letter from the Office of Student Affairs noting their academic standing with instructions on the self-directed academic action plan and a date by which they need to meet with their faculty advisor or Office of Student Affairs, depending on the level of academic standing.

#### **If a student receives a D+, D, or D- in a course and this grade is due to a failing grade ( $\leq 70\%$ ) on a single assessment, and the student completes a focused reassessment, how is the new**

**grade calculated?**

If the student completes the focused reassessment and this elevates their course grade to a 70% or better, the final grade recorded for this course will be a C-.

**If a student receives a D+, D, or D- in a course and this grade is due to a failing grade ( $\leq 70\%$ ) on a single assessment, will they retake the same, original assessment they performed poorly on?**

Faculty are encouraged to develop a new assessment based on the same student learning outcomes tested on in the original assessment.

**If a student receives a D+, D, or D- in a course and completes course remediation, is the original D grade replaced with what the student earned in remediation?**

When a student completes remediation of a course in which they earned a D, the original grade will not be changed. The grade they earned in remediation will be recorded as a Pass ( $\geq 70\%$ ) or Fail grade.