

	<i>Responsible Office or Department:</i>	Academic Affairs
	<i>Effective Date:</i>	12/16/2024
Academic Progress Standards: Undergraduate Students		

PURPOSE:

All undergraduate students are making acceptable academic progress toward graduation in a reasonable timeframe (e.g., four years) when they earn at least a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and successfully complete at least 15 credit hours each semester.

Because it is in the best interest of both students and the University that students complete their degree program in a reasonable timeframe, the University has established the standards in the chart below to provide clear feedback to students about their academic standing at the university. In addition, these standards enable the university to identify students who are in need of academic intervention so that the university can provide students with support and opportunities for improvement. Niagara University reviews Academic Progress Standards at the end of the fall and spring semesters. The credit students complete during the summer/semester breaks are factored into their cumulative GPA/credit following the next fall or spring semester.

Students whose academic performance meets one or more of the criteria below will be placed on an Academic Progress Standard status. The academic progress status assigned will be progressive if a student continues to fall below these standards.

Completed Credit	Academic Progress Standards Students whose academic performance meets one or more of the criteria below will be placed on an Academic Progress Status.	Academic Progress Status Assigned		
		1 st time	2 nd time	3 rd time
0 – 23	Cumulative GPA Earned: Less than 1.8	Warning	Probation	Dismissal
24+	Cumulative GPA Earned: Less than 2.0			
All Students	Cumulative Attempted Credit: Less than 67% completed			
	Semester Attempted Credit: Less than 50% completed	Probation	Dismissal	NA
	Semester Attempted Credit: 0% completed			

Credit Completed: Transfer and AP credit; grades of A, B, C, D, S, S*, P* (and all plus and minus grades)

Credit Not Completed: F, W, U, I

Attempted Credit: Grades of A, B, C, D, S, S*, P* (and all plus and minus grades); F, W, U, I; repeated coursework

Standards apply to both full-time and part-time students.

LSK courses do not count as attempted or completed credit; they are used for determining enrollment status for billing and financial aid purposes.

Please note this process is separate from the required “Satisfactory Academic Progress” requirements for Title IV (federal) and institutional financial aid eligibility. Please consult the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Certain majors may have a higher grade point average requirement for retention in the major, e.g., education, social work and nursing. Retention in the major is determined by the appropriate department and college.

SCOPE:

Academic Progress Standards apply to all full and part-time undergraduate students.

MAIN PROVISIONS:

Students are achieving Niagara's minimum academic progress standards when they earn at least a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (1.8 for students who have earned 0 – 23 credit hours), complete at least 67% of the cumulative credit hours they attempt, and at least 50% of the semester credit they attempt at the end of the fall and spring semesters. When a student fails to achieve these standards, the student is placed on Academic Warning. When a student earns zero credit in any semester, the student is placed on Academic Probation. The academic progress status assigned will be progressive if a student continues to fall below these standards.

The university recognizes that grades of "W" and/or "I" may be necessitated by circumstances out of the student's control such as serious illness of the student or serious illness or death in the student's family. However, because grades of "W" and/or "I" can still impact a student's progress toward degree completion, they will still be placed on an academic status if they do not meet one of the APS standards. Please review the information below regarding requests for reevaluation of an assigned status when students receive grades of "W" or "I."

When a student's achievement level is no longer acceptable to the university, the student is subject to dismissal from the university. Students who are subject to dismissal may appeal the dismissal if the student has reason to believe there are circumstances that should be considered. The circumstances under which a student can submit an appeal include death of a relative, injury or illness of the student, or other special circumstances.

PROCEDURES:

Requirements – Students on Warning or Probation:

All Students: Students are required to meet with their assistant dean/program director prior to the start of the next semester to review the GPA/credit they need to meet Niagara's academic progress standards and the strategies (e.g., repeating failed courses, completing grades of incomplete, enrolling in summer classes) and resources available to assist them in getting back on track.

Students with 0 – 30 Credit Hours Completed: In addition to meeting with their assistant dean/program director, students are required to meet with an academic coach in the Academic Success Center during the semester to discuss strategies/resources that can help them improve their academic performance. The first meeting will be scheduled via email.

Students with Grades of Incomplete ("I") and/or Withdrawn ("W") and Requests for Reevaluation:

Students with grades of "I" and "W" may request reevaluation of their academic status under the following circumstances by contacting the Academic Progress Standards Chair at asc@niagara.edu:

- "Incomplete" grades have been completed and a final grade is assigned. The student's academic progress status will be reevaluated and changed, if appropriate.

- “W” grades were requested by the student and assigned for reasons that were out of the student’s control (e.g., serious illness of the student or serious illness or death in the student’s family). This request serves as a preliminary appeal, allowing students to summarize and document the challenges that led to their request for W's. It also enables the APS Committee and the student's assistant dean determine the best course of action for the student, particularly if the student's circumstances require more time than the APS policy allows. Reevaluation may result in a student’s status being changed providing the student with an additional semester(s) to earn the credit/GPA needed to meet Niagara’s academic progress standards.

The outcome of the reevaluation will be communicated to the student and appropriate university personnel using Niagara email.

Dismissal Status and Appeals for Reinstatement:

Students who are dismissed from the university for academic reasons will have a notation to this effect on their transcript.

Appeals for Reinstatement: Students may appeal for reinstatement by emailing the Academic Progress Standards Chair at asc@niagara.edu by the date specified in their letter/email notification. The appeal must include a description of the challenges that contributed to their academic difficulty accompanied by any supporting documentation (e.g., medical documentation, obituary), an explanation of what has changed in the student’s situation that would enable him/her to achieve Niagara’s Academic Progress Standards during the next semester, and a detailed plan on how they will address their challenges/circumstances and improve their academic performance. Students are encouraged to contact their dean’s office to discuss their academic status and identify their options for achieving APS. Information about APS and the appeal process can also be found on myNU. The Academic Progress Standards Committee and each student’s assistant dean/program director will review the appeal and notify students by letter/email of their decision regarding reinstatement.

If an appeal is approved, students will be placed on Continued Probation for the next semester.

If an appeal is denied, students will remain on dismissal status. Students may appeal a decision made by the Academic Progress Standards Committee by contacting the Office of Academic Affairs whose decision is final. The contact information is 716.286.8342 / provost@niagara.edu.

Readmission: Students who were dismissed for academic reasons may apply for readmission after attending another accredited college and successfully completing at least 12 credit hours and earning a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher. The decision for readmission will be made by the Academic Progress Standards Chair and the appropriate assistant dean/director. Readmitted students will be on Academic Probation.

Requirements – Reinstated or Readmitted Students: Students are required to meet with their assistant dean/program director prior to the start of the next semester to review the conditions of reenrolling, the GPA/credit needed to meet Niagara’s academic progress standards, and the resources available to assist them in getting back on track.

Removal of Academic Progress Standards Status: Statuses will be removed once students meet Niagara’s minimum academic progress standards.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

None

POLICY HISTORY:

- Originated: 7/12/2012
- Current Effective Date: 12/16/2024
- Next Review Date: **12/16/2027**
- Revision/Renewal Log:
 - Replaces “Satisfactory Academic Progress, Undergraduate Students” effective 12/16/2024
 - Reviewed 01/10/2024, no revisions necessary