

Academic Disqualification, Academic Probation, and Academic Improvement Program Policies

Faculty policy. Effective immediately.

Revision history: Formerly a part of the annually revised Student Handbook ; established as a standalone policy August 2022; revised in August 2023; edits related to part-time students made in May 2024 to be effective starting with the 2024/2025 academic year .

Related policies: SCALE Program Policies; Policy to Prevent Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation .

Scheduled Review Date: April 2025 (Academic Success and Bar Preparation Office; Student Services Office)

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A. Overview of Academic Policies

The following policies apply to all J.D. students in the full-time and part-time (evening or PLEAS/parttime day) residential or online J.D. programs. As used in this policy, an

- a. ***A minimum cumulative GPA:*** Students are disqualified if they do not maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.330 at the end of each evaluation period, excluding the summer session or the intersession. The minimum

of the first year. A student must also participate in an AIP if the student's cumulative GPA is 2.700 or below as calculated after the spring semester of each academic year. Part-time students required to participate in an Academic Improvement Program are required to meet with the Student Services Office to discuss their academic performance.

B. Academic Disqualification

1. Disqualification procedure

Southwestern reviews student grades at the end of each evaluation period to determine whether a student has been academically disqualified. The Student Services Office will notify students by letter (via email) if they have been disqualified and withdrawn.

In circumstances where a student believes their grades are not reflective of their academic capability due to possible discriminatory or harassing action (on the basis of race (including hairstyle and hair texture), ethnicity, color, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, sex, gender (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age (40 or over), disability (mental and physical), medical condition, citizenship status, military status or service, veteran status, genetic information, or any other classification protected by law in the educational programs (including retention of students) or activities Southwestern operates), the student may file a complaint under the Law School's Policy to Prevent Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

A student who is academically disqualified may petition for readmission except in cases where a student has failed to meet the conditions of previous readmission (see Procedures section below).

2. Readmission petition procedure

Southwestern's Academic Standards Committee is responsible for considering petitions for readmission. A student seeking readmission following disqualification must file a written petition within ten calendar days of the date of the disqualification letter from the Student Services Office. Exceptions to this deadline are allowed solely at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Student Services and only in emergencies or under compelling circumstances.

A student who is academically disqualified and is petitioning for readmission may continue in Southwestern courses in which the student is currently enrolled, pending notification by the Committee of its decision. If the student is enrolled in an externship and wishes to continue fulfilling the externship course requirements pending consideration of the petition, Southwestern will notify the placement of the student's academic status and the student's plan to continue in

documentation. Reasons such as excessive work from outside employment are not heavily weighed. Letters from individuals outside the law school are not considered as heavily as the assessment of law faculty. Letters of support from students will not be accepted.

The student will be notified in writing of the Committee's decision, generally within three weeks of receipt of the petition for readmission, unless unusual or complex circumstances exist. Committee decisions are final and not subject to further appeal. A student whose petition is denied will automatically be withdrawn from all currently enrolled Southwestern courses and will receive a full tuition refund for any currently enrolled Southwestern courses. No credit will be granted for any courses from which a disqualified student is withdrawn, and no grades will be recorded. A notation is placed on the student's transcript when a student has been academically disqualified. If the student is readmitted, a notation of reinstatement will be placed on the transcript. The grades for courses taken at Southwestern by any academically disqualified student, including those who are readmitted or subsequently apply and start over, will remain on the transcript as a part of the student's permanent academic record. For every admission or readmission of a previously disqualified student, the student's transcript will be reviewed and the student's academic record will be updated to reflect the student's current status. The student's transcript will be reviewed and the student's academic record will be updated to reflect the student's current status.

course(s).The Academic Standards Committee may dismiss a student for breaching the conditions of readmission.

Students who fail to meet the reinstatement conditions will be academically disqualified and not eligible to petition the Academic Standards Committee. The academic disqualification will be final, and the student will be withdrawn from the

