

## Academic Performance Policy

Students must meet standards of academic performance in order to advance each term and successfully complete the requirements for a master's degree. This document describes policies and procedures with respect to students whose academic performance is unsatisfactory.

### **Academic Probation**

A student who has received a grade of No Credit (NC) or Low Pass (LP) will automatically be placed on academic probation during the following term.

The student's performance will be reviewed by a committee at the end of the term during which a student has been on probation. The committee will consist of the appropriate Health Sciences Assistant Dean or delegate and the Program Director, and between one and three faculty who teach in the program.

Satisfactory academic progress generally requires a Pass grade or equivalent in current courses and fulfillment of any requirements that were recommended for removing deficiencies; however, the committee may require other evidence, such as a report on research performed. If academic progress is judged to be satisfactory, probationary status will end. If academic progress is judged to be unsatisfactory, the student will be placed in "Unsatisfactory standing", thereby being ineligible for federal loans and subject to suspension or dismissal.

If after being removed from probation a student again receives one LP or lower grade, the committee will review the student's progress and will either place them on probation or recommend that the student be separated from the program.

### **Academic Suspension and Dismissal**

A student may be dismissed from a program if either their academic work or behavior is not up to acceptable standards of a graduate scholar at Dartmouth. Students may be suspended or dismissed without further formalities if they receive the following during one

term or over multiple terms:

- more than one NC, or
- more than two LPs

Suspension could be for one or more terms. Students cannot graduate with more than one NC grade, or with more than two LP grades on their transcripts without retaking one or more of those courses and receiving a passing grade.

Although students may re-take a course in which they have received a NC or LP grade, the NC or LP remains on their academic record, regardless of the grade received in a course that is re-taken, and is counted toward any future probationary, suspension, or dismissal actions. If a student retakes an NC course and receives a second NC, the student may be dismissed from the program without further formalities.

Students who are suspended for academic reasons, who withdraw in unsatisfactory academic standing, or who withdraw while on academic probation must present positive evidence of the ability to resume satisfactory progress when applying for readmission.

#### *Financial Aid Considerations:*

There are various paths for a student with an unsatisfactory standing to regain academic progress for financial aid purposes. Students should make an appointment with a Graduate Financial Aid Officer by calling (603) 646-2451, who will provide advice according to the individual student's records.

Students who have special circumstances that may have affected their ability to maintain satisfactory progress and who wish to appeal their non-eligible status may do so by providing written details and documentation to the Graduate Financial Aid Officer, HB 6024.

Note: this appeal is for financial aid purposes only. Academic status questions should be addressed to the Assistant Dean or delegate.

#### **Academic Withdrawal**

Students may voluntarily withdraw from a program at any time. Students considering withdrawal are encouraged to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this option with their Assistant Dean or delegate before taking action.

If a student has withdrawn in good academic standing, they will be eligible for fellowship funds, tuition scholarships, and if qualified, for loan funds upon readmission. A timely application (set by the program) is necessary, however, in order to ensure that funds are available.

Students who are suspended for academic reasons, who withdraw in questionable academic standing, or who withdraw while on academic probation must present positive evidence of the ability to resume satisfactory progress when applying for readmission. If a student has withdrawn while on probationary or suspended status, the student must re-apply for admission, which is not automatically granted.

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