



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 , , ã•,\$7Oi@ZÉxóüxØùçžJý 0O= /žÔÍOp —ãü2ÃT

A student is academically disqualified when a student fails to achieve

- a. ***A minimum cumulative GPA:*** Traditional 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 cumulative GPA requirement is initially calculated after the first two evaluation periods (i.e., at the end of the spring semester of the first year).
- b. ***A minimum GPA in two consecutive evaluation periods:*** Students are disqualified if they do not achieve a GPA of at least 2.330 in each of two consecutive evaluation periods, excluding the summer session or the January intersession.

A student is also academically disqualified if they:

- c. ***Fail a required course two times:*** Students are disqualified if they fail a repeated course a second time.

2. Academic probation

A student is placed on academic probation when the student's grade point average is less than a 2.330 GPA in any evaluation period, excluding the summer terms or January intersession, or when the student has been academically disqualified and readmitted. Students can be placed on academic probation after their first evaluation period. Students on academic probation may not participate in externships, student honors programs, or leadership positions. A student remains on academic probation for the duration of the term's Academic Improvement Program.

3. Academic Improvement Program

A student may be required to participate in an Academic Improvement Program (AIP) when the student's cumulative GPA is 2.700 or below after the fall semester 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.

B. Academic Disqualification

1. Disqualification procedure

Southwestern reviews student grades at the end of each evaluation period (i.e., semester) 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 The Student Services Office will notify students by letter (via email) if they have been disqualified and withdrawn.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

- c. reasons justifying readmission, including any change in circumstances; and
- d. a proposed program for remedying past deficiencies and assuring future successful performance. The proposed program should be discussed with the Academic Success and Bar Preparation Office.

An electronic copy of the petition (in PDF format) must be emailed to studentservices@swlaw.edu by the deadline listed in the notification letter.

The Committee will only consider petitions in writing; personal appearances are prohibited .

3. Standards for readmission

The Committee will review all timely submitted written petitions. The three most important factors in any decision on a petition for readmission are the following: (1) the nature of the reason(s) offered for the academic performance that resulted in disqualification; (2) the likelihood that the student will successfully complete law school if readmitted; and (3) whether the student took advantage of Southwestern's academic support programs. Disqualified students who were assigned to and failed to participate in any component of a required Academic Improvement Program will be presumptively barred from readmission absent exceptional circumstances.

The Committee may also consider other considerations in deciding whether to grant a petition for readmission. These considerations include the following: (a) the pattern of the student's grades in law school that contributed to the disqualification; (b) the student's undergraduate grade point average, LSAT score, and service activities; (c) feedback from the student's past professors; and (d) objectively verifiable reasons for poor performance and appropriate supporting 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 individual, a statement of the considerations that led to the decision will be placed in the admittee's file per ABA Standard 501(c).

A student whose petition is denied

exam; and (3) to limit a student's involvement in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, when necessary. Various curricular and cœcurricular programs are offered