Academic Probation and Suspension

The academic status of a student is determined by his or her term GPA after each term, in conjunction with his or her cumulative UK GPA. A student may be in Good Standing, on Probation, or on Academic Suspension (which could be just from his/her college, and/or from the University entirely). The statuses of Good Standing and Probation are automatically generated in the SAP system based on end-of-term grades after progression, as is the status 'Eligible for Suspension'. This last placeholder status involves the college’s input, as the college’s designee must decide whether to keep the student on Probation, which will limit the number of hours in which the student may enroll in the following term, or to suspend the student, which means the student will be dropped from any courses in which he or she has registered for the following term, and will not be permitted to register at UK for at least two semesters. (The Summer Sessions are considered one term for the purposes of this determination.) A student is not permitted to remain in the ‘Eligible for Suspension’ status into the following term. The college must make a determination regarding their academic status-this is subject to the judgment of the college’s designee.

If the student has been placed on Probation (either automatically by the system, or if Probation has been assigned to a student who is ‘Eligible for Suspension’), then he or she may be limited to taking 15 credit hours for the following Fall or Spring semester.

University Bulletin Explanation of Academic Status:

Academic Probation

Students are placed on probation if:

1. Their cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) falls below 2.0. Students on probation for this reason who achieve a cumulative 2.0 GPA or higher shall be removed from probation.

2. They have two consecutive UK academic terms with term GPAs below 2.0 regardless of their cumulative GPA. Students who achieve a 2.0 or better in the next term and have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher will be removed from probation.

Academic Suspension

Students are suspended if:

1. They fail to earn a 2.0 term GPA for any term while on probation;
2. They have three consecutive UK terms in which their cumulative GPA remains below 2.0;

or

3. Their GPA is below 0.6 after their first term, if the semester's GPA is based on at least 9 hours of grades, A, B, C, D, or E.

Notwithstanding the provisions above, in the case of a student eligible for suspension, the dean of the student’s college may continue a student on academic probation if the individual case so justifies with notification to the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

General Rules Pertaining to Students under Academic Suspension

A student academically suspended from the University may not enroll in any courses (including courses taken through the Office of Independent Study) offered by the University nor take any special examination for University credit. Students already enrolled in correspondence course(s) will be allowed to complete the course work upon notification of his/her suspension.

A student academically suspended from the University a second time shall not be readmitted to the University except in unusual circumstances and then only upon recommendation of the dean of the college in which the student plans to enroll and approval of the University Senate Council.

Once reported to the Registrar, an academic suspension may be rescinded by the dean only in the event of an error in the determination of the student’s eligibility for suspension, an official grade change that alters the student’s suspension eligibility, or exceptional circumstances.

Progression and the Academic Status Report

Progression is the process by which the SAP system consolidates all grades assigned to students for a given term at UK, which are then used to generate reports such as the Dean’s List and the Academic Status Report. Usually within a few days of the last day for instructors of record to submit grades for their courses, the Registrar’s Office will run progression for all active students’ academic records. This calculates earned hours and GPA’s for all students with enrollment in the just-completed term. The subsequent Academic Status Report, which is accessible through myUK, then lists three categories of students, based on changes in their UK academic status from the start of the term: those who have moved from Probation to Good Standing, those who have moved from
Good Standing to Probation, and those who have moved from Probation and (in the case of first-term freshmen) Good Standing to Eligible for Suspension. (Care should be taken in reviewing term records to ensure there are no Incomplete or unassigned grades, as subsequent grade assignment could very well change a student’s academic status for the term in question.)

Students in the Eligible for Suspension category must then be assessed by the designee in the student’s college to determine whether the student will be permitted to continue on academic probation or whether he or she will be suspended from the University. The designee may consider extenuating circumstances surrounding the student’s situation which might weigh on the decision whether to suspend. Here are some examples:

- The student is in the process of retroactively withdrawing from the last, or previous, term(s).
- The student is planning to transfer to a college or major at UK with lower GPA graduation requirements (especially if merely achieving Good Standing meets the requirements).
- The student is transferring to another University.
- The student’s academic performance is improving steadily, and he or she has a reasonable expectation of completing current degree requirements.

**Reviewing GPA Calculation**

Grade Point Average (GPA) is, of course, a general measure of how well a student is doing in his or her courses; however, not all of the hours a student has earned contribute to that student’s cumulative UK GPA. Courses taken pass/fail, transfer credit (excluding KCTCS courses applied to the student record spring 2007 or before), Incomplete grades, duplicate credit (i.e., non-repeatable courses which have been taken and later repeated at UK without filing a repeat option), courses affected by academic bankruptcy, and remedial courses not taken for University credit are not calculated into official University GPA’s. Any course credit taken at UK for a letter grade which does not fit into any of the above categories constitutes quality hours. So the number of a student’s career earned hours is often completely different from his or her total number of quality hours.

Each letter grade is assigned a point value: an A is worth 4 points, B = 3 points, C = 2 points, D = 1 point, and E = zero points (exceptions to the grading scale point assignment include College of Design and Agriculture-Landscape Architecture major). Courses in which students have earned an ‘E’ are considered quality hours, even
though no hours were earned. *Quality points* for a grade are found by multiplying the number of credit hours of a course by the point value of the letter grade. For example, if a student earns a B in a three credit-hour course at UK, the student has earned $3 \times 3 = 9$ quality points for that course.

The GPA is then calculated by dividing a student’s total ‘quality points’ by ‘quality hours’. Here’s an example of a typical student term from an unofficial UK transcript, showing how both the term GPA and cumulative GPA are calculated by multiplying quality hours (QHRS) by grade point values to get quality points (QPTS), and then $\text{QPTS/QHRS} = \text{GPA}$:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRN</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Qpts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>259</td>
<td>TEACH PIERCE LERN IN FIRM (EDC 323)</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>506</td>
<td>CHILD WELFARE SERVICES (SW 506)</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>207</td>
<td>ENG 337 IMAG WRIT: FICTION (EMS 207)</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>329</td>
<td>ENG 337 IMAG WRIT: FICTION (EMS 329)</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Quality Deficit Points

In cases where a student is in the Eligible for Suspension category, the Academic Status Report shows ‘quality deficit points’, which measures how near (or far) a student is from being in Good Standing with the University. So in cases where the student’s cumulative UK GPA is below a 2.0, quality deficit points can help in making the decision whether to suspend a student. The quality deficit is the difference between the student’s total number of quality points, and the number of quality points the student would have required during his/her career to attain the 2.0 GPA for Good Standing.

A UK student with 46 total quality hours would have needed 92 quality points to be in Good Standing; however, if this student has earned only 74 quality points during his or her career (which works out to a 1.609 cumulative GPA), she has 18 deficit points (the 92 quality points needed for Good Standing minus the 74 she earned). Generally 15 deficit points, regardless of how many quality hours a student has, is a decent starting standard for whether academic suspension is in the student’s best interests. Also, of course, the further along a student is in his academic career, the more difficult it becomes for him to raise the GPA substantially.

It should be noted that a student may be eligible for suspension, but not have quality deficit points. This would occur for a student who has three consecutive term GPAs below a 2.0. While their overall GPA may be above a 2.0, earning a term GPA below a 2.0 while on University probation, makes a student eligible for suspension.
Assigning Academic Status in SAP

All students with an Eligible for Suspension status must be changed to either Probation or Academic Suspension through the student’s record in SAP. Ideally this change will be made prior to the start of the next term. Please see the link below to access directions on how to change the eligible for suspension status.
http://myhelp.uky.edu/rwd/HTML/SLCM/QRC_Eligible_Suspension_Decision.pdf

What Next?

The advisor, either directly or through the college’s appointed office, notifies electronically and/or by letter the student of the change in academic status as early as is possible. This enables the student to adjust his or her plans accordingly, and in colleges which have suspension appeals processes, allows the student sufficient time to assemble evidence for the appeal. Some colleges also have required follow-up programming for first-term probation students. In the case of suspension, the student is also informed that any course registration for the next term has been dropped from his or her academic record. In notifying the student, the advisor or college should make clear the student’s next steps—that taking courses at a community college, or even time off from academics altogether, might be in the student’s best interests. Academic suspension is not a punishment, but an opportunity for the student to take stock of his or her future plans.