



Academic Probation – Frequently Asked Questions

Academic Probation

What is the minimum GPA I must maintain?

You are expected to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0, which equates to a "C" average. You must maintain a 2.0 GPA in all courses taken at CSUSM and in all courses transferred from other colleges and universities.

What happens if I fall below a 2.0 GPA?

You will be placed on academic probation and are subject to academic disqualification if your GPA falls too far below a 2.0.

If my GPA falls below a 2.0, how do I raise my GPA?

The best way to improve your GPA is to repeat courses in which you received a grade of C- or below. Early in the semester, before you receive your final grades, you should pay attention to your first quiz or your mid-term tests. If you don't receive high grades, take action. Attend class regularly, read the assigned readings, and talk to your professors immediately. They can make suggestions about improving your grades. Talk to an advisor, they can give you probation information and develop strategies with you to get you off probation immediately. Take advantage of CSUSM's Writing Center [Kellogg Library 1103] and Math Lab [Kellogg Library 1109]. They offer free tutoring programs for CSUSM students. Don't wait to see if you can do better on your own; it may be too late. Faculty and staff are here to help.

Academic Standing

Students can improve their academic standing in a number of ways. They can earn "A" and "B" grades to offset previously earned low grades. In addition, undergraduate students can take advantage of the University's Course Repeat policy and repeat CSUSM courses. If the grade of a second attempt at a CSUSM course is a "C" or higher, it will take the place of the original grade in the student's grade point average (GPA).

What if I receive a poor grade on my second attempt at taking a course?

In order to replace "D," "F," or "WU" grades then you must receive a "C" or higher on your second attempt at taking the course(s). If on your second attempt you receive a grade of "D," "F," or "WU", the grade will be computed in both your units attempted and GPA.

Can this GPA adjustment be applied to a grade of "D," "F," or "WU" I transferred from another institution?

No.

What is a "WU" grade?

If you register for a course, decide not to attend and never officially drop the course, then you will receive a grade of a "WU". A "WU" affects your GPA negatively and is equivalent to an "F".



Academic Probation – Frequently Asked Questions

If you decide to drop a course, be sure to do so immediately in your Student Center in my.csusm.edu during the add/drop period of the semester.

What is "academic renewal" and how difficult is it to obtain?

Because academic renewal involves very specific criteria, few students are eligible to receive it. Academic renewal means that all grades and units received during one or two semesters of undergraduate course work are disregarded in the computation of GPA and academic standing. This can be a great help to students who did poorly in their early academic career and are attempting to clean up their early academic record. If students can meet the terms of academic renewal, they need to be aware that no work, even if satisfactory, taken during the disregarded semester(s), will apply toward the baccalaureate degree. In addition, all grades and units attempted will remain on record although they will not be computed. The terms of academic renewal are:

- At least five calendar years must have elapsed since the work in question was completed.
- Students must have subsequently completed at least 15 semester units with a 3.0 GPA (or 30 semester units with a 2.5 GPA or 45 semester units with a 2.0 GPA) at this university before filing a request to disregard the early course work in question.
- The petitioning student must certify that the work to be disregarded was not reflective of his/her present level of academic performance.
- The certification must include a statement explaining the extenuating circumstances which caused the poor performance during the semester(s) in question.
- The student must provide evidence that it would be necessary to complete additional units and enroll for one or more additional semesters in order to qualify for the baccalaureate degree if the request were not approved.
- Petitions for academic renewals must be submitted to Cougar Central.