

6.14 Standards of Academic Progress

Last Revised: April 2024

Policy: Piedmont Community College (PCC) employs criteria that measure standards of academic progress and provides assistance to students who do not meet those standards.

Purpose/Definitions:

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to apply reasonable criteria for measuring whether students are meeting standards of academic progress in their chosen program of study. Standards of academic progress should not be confused with financial aid satisfactory academic progress (SAP).

Definitions

Good academic standing with the College—the status assigned to a student who maintains a 2.0 overall academic GPA. The calculation of this GPA may be affected by the grade forgiveness provisions of PCC Policy 6.12 Grading System – Curriculum.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)—a standard defined in federal financial aid guidelines that stipulates a student maintain a 2.0 overall financial aid GPA, maintain a 67% completion rate of all courses attempted, and complete their program of study within a 150% timeframe of the published program length. Note: Financial aid satisfactory academic progress (SAP) should not be confused with standards of academic progress as described in PCC Policy 6.14 Standards of Academic Progress.

Approval Authority/Monitoring Authority: Piedmont Community College’s Board of Trustees has approval authority for this policy. The Vice President, Instruction/CAO and Vice President, Student Development have monitoring authority for this policy.

Procedure:

Section 1: Academic Probation

- 1.1. A student who fails to meet the minimum standard of academic progress is placed on probation for the next semester of attendance.

- 1.2. During the semester on probation, the student is required to sign an Educational Contract (Exhibit 6.14) which specifies the courses to be taken, extra help necessary to improve academic standing, and the grades needed to continue enrollment.
- 1.3. A student on academic probation may not be eligible for financial aid during the probationary semester.
- 1.4. A student on academic probation must postpone registering for the subsequent semester until the previous semester's grades are available.
- 1.5. A veteran may receive educational benefits for only one semester while on academic probation.

Section 2: Academic Suspension

- 2.1. A student who does not satisfy the terms of the Educational Contract (Exhibit 6.14) may be suspended for a period of one semester.
- 2.2. A student may return at the end of the suspension period if the academic advisor determines that the student can benefit from readmission to the College.
- 2.3. A student readmitted after a period of academic suspension enrolls in the College on academic probation.

Legal Citation: NA

History: Effective May 1976; Revised October 2001, July 2012, May 2021, May 2022—updated definitions, April 2024

Exhibit 6.14 Educational Contract

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE Educational Contract

Per the guidelines established in the Piedmont Community College Catalog and Student Handbook, this contract serves to assist students on academic probation to improve their academic standing.

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--|------------|--|------|--|
| Name: | | | | GPA: | |
| Student ID: | | Program: | | | |
| Semester: | | Phone: (H) | | (C) | |

I, _____ agree to the following terms:

- I will take only _____ semester hours this semester.
- I will obtain a _____ GPA this semester.
- I will participate in a minimum of four workshops during this semester; three of these will be academic in nature (e.g., study skills/note taking skills, etc.); the fourth workshop may be academic or personal (e.g., stress management in nature).
- I will provide documentation to demonstrate my attendance at these workshops.
- I will meet with a counselor at least four times this semester to discuss my progress
- Other specified:

I understand that if I do not satisfy the terms of this agreement, I may be suspended for one semester.

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Student | |
| Counselor | |
| Date | |

| Meeting Schedule | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1 st Meeting | |
| 2 nd Meeting | |
| 3 rd Meeting | |
| 4 th Meeting | |

Four Meetings:

1. Meet with Advisor to determine upcoming list of classes to take, based on Educational Contract.
2. Progress Check – two weeks into semester for 8-week classes, three weeks into semester for 13-week and 16-week classes.
3. Progress Check – after mid-term grades have been posted.
4. End of Semester Check – planning for next semester and to review academic performance.