Participation Guidelines

Policy/Procedure

The faculty assumes that every student admitted to Dickinson will be able to qualify for graduation. However, the opportunity to continue at Dickinson is a privilege a student must earn by academic achievement. A student who fails to meet the minimum grade point average for his or her class will be required to withdraw unless the Committee on Academic Program Standards takes action otherwise. Dickinson College reserves the right, at any time, to require withdrawal from the College of any student whose academic performance or personal conduct on or off the College campus is, in the sole judgment of the College, unsatisfactory or detrimental to the best interests of the College.

First-Year Students

The minimum average for a first-year student to be in good academic standing is 1.75. At the end of the first semester of the first year, students falling below 1.75 will be placed on academic probation and required to participate actively in the Steps to Academic Success Program for the following semester. At the end of the second semester of the first year, students with cumulative grade point averages below 1.75 will be required to withdraw unless they actively participated in the Steps to Academic Success Program and made significant improvement toward the required 1.75 cumulative grade point average. In this case, the student may be permitted to continue in Dickinson's summer school on probation. Students who fail to meet the probationary grade point average AND do not participate actively in the Steps program will be required to withdraw from the college.

Sophomores

The minimum average for a sophomore to be in good academic standing is 2.00. At the end of the first semester of the sophomore year, students falling below 2.00 will be placed on academic probation and required to participate actively in the Steps to Academic Success Program for the following semester. At the end of the second semester, sophomores with cumulative grade point averages below 2.00 will be required to withdraw unless they actively participated in the Steps to Academic Success Program and made significant improvement toward the 2.00 cumulative grade point average. In this case, the student may be permitted to continue in Dickinson's summer school on probation. Students who fail to meet the probationary grade point average AND do not participate actively in the Steps program will be required to withdraw from the college.

Juniors and Seniors

Juniors and seniors must achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.00. Juniors and seniors who have below a 2.00 at the end of the first semester of the academic year will be placed on probation for the second semester. Juniors with a grade point average below a 2.00 at the end of
the academic year will be required to withdraw. In order to graduate a senior must have a minimum grade point average of 2.00.

A student on probation must show significant improvement during the semester of probation (and participated actively in the Steps to Academic Success Program if so required) in order to remain at the College.

In addition to maintaining a minimum grade point average, students are expected to make satisfactory quantitative progress toward the completion of degree requirements. Full-time students are normally expected to complete at least 4 courses each semester and to progress one grade level each year. Evaluation of progress occurs at the end of the academic year when grades for spring semester are posted. First-year students become sophomores when seven courses creditable toward graduation are completed. Sophomores achieve junior status after 15 courses and juniors become seniors after 23 courses. For students who fail to progress one grade level and for part-time students, satisfactory academic progress will be measured by comparing the number of courses attempted to the number completed successfully. Attempted courses include all withdrawals, incompletes, and failures. To be considered to be progressing satisfactorily, students must have completed successfully the following percentage of courses attempted:

- First year students - 60 percent
- Sophomores - 70 percent
- Juniors/Seniors - 80 percent

**Committee on Academic Program and Standards**

The Committee on Academic Program and Standards interprets and applies these standards on a case-by-case basis at the end of each semester. The Committee on Academic Program and Standards may warn a student if his or her semester average falls below the minimum required cumulative grade point average even when the cumulative average allows the student to remain in good academic standing; continued performance at current level would remove student from good academic standing.

The Committee on Academic Program and Standards may place a student on academic probation if the student has proven ability to achieve the established probationary average; a low semester average does not include any failing grades; or, while on probation the student's average meets or exceeds the established probationary average when the cumulative average remains below the minimum for good standing.

A student with three consecutive semesters with averages below 2.00 will be required to withdraw from the College, even if his or her cumulative grade point average remains above a 2.00. Students on academic probation are determined to be making satisfactory progress for the purpose of receiving financial aid.

**Related Information**
### History/Revision Information

**Responsible Office/Division:**

**Effective Date:**

**Last Amended Date:**

**Next Review Date:**

**Also Found In:** Student-Athlete Handbook