

Successful Semester for New Freshmen

Proposal:

Revise the [description of a successful semester](#) in the College Standards and Policies section of the Catalog.

Justification:

The Council is concerned by the increase of freshmen entering into their second semester in academic trouble due to failing too many courses. Last year, the college passed a new withdrawal policy that allows all students to wait until the last day of courses to withdraw from classes. The concern of the council is that many freshmen are not withdrawing from classes because of the 12 credit rule for successful semesters and financial aid requirements. Freshmen for financial aid are not accountable to the 12 credit rule and the hope is that if we change the successful semester credits to 9, first semester freshmen will be more encouraged to get out of classes that they are struggling with earlier in the semester, so they can do better in the classes they are left with. This will only apply to first semester freshmen.

Catalog Language:

Academic Standing

Academic standing is determined at the end of Fall and Spring semesters. A Student's academic standing will not change during summer or winter sessions. The determination of the student's academic standing categories, the heuristics that cause changes in the student's standing, procedures, and processes followed specifically apply to all students matriculated in degree programs, full-time or part-time.

Successful Semester

Current:

Student is deemed to have had a Successful Semester if the student:

- a) has a semester GPA of 2.0 or above AND
- b) has received (A through D-, P, S, H, or IP) in 12 credits for the semester when full-time.

Change to:

Student is deemed to have had a Successful Semester if the student:

- a) has a semester GPA of 2.0 or above AND
- b) has received (A through D-, P, S, H, or IP) in **at least** 12 credits for the semester when full-time (**for first-year students in their first semester, this condition is satisfied with 9 credits**).