

Academic Warning and Probation Policy
(Revised Summer 2024*)

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*All policies presented are subject to exception and/or change without notice at the discretion of the School of Education and Social Policy’s Student Affairs Office Advising Team.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

In the case of School of Education and Social Policy's (SESP's) 42 Unit Degree Graduation Requirement, **MAKING satisfactory progress means...**

- having earned at least 9 Units after 3 quarters of enrollment or by the end of your 1st full Academic Year
- having earned at least 18 Units after 6 quarters of enrollment or by the end of your 2nd full Academic Year
- having earned at least 30 Units after 9 quarters of enrollment or by the end of your 3rd full Academic Year
- having earned at least 42 Units after 12 quarters of enrollment or by the end of your 4th full Academic Year
- having earned at least 14 Units of the combined 24 Units between your SESP Core and HDC, LS, LOC, or SOC POL Concentration courses at least 2 quarters before your Expected Graduation Term
- having at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA by the end of your Expected Graduation Term

In the case of Secondary/Elementary Teaching Students, **MAKING satisfactory progress means...**

Students will be on track to apply to the Teacher Preparation Program by the Fall of their third year.

To be eligible for the clinical experiences, students must have met the GPA requirements for and been admitted to the Teacher Preparation Program. Students need to be on track to have completed a minimum of 9 courses in the teaching subject area by the end of the Practicum term for placement with a teacher mentor at a local school.

To be eligible for student teaching, students must have successfully completed the applicable Theory and Practice of Teaching seminar, earned a passing score on the applicable ILTS Content-Area Test, fulfilled minimum GPA requirements for student teaching, completed 9 teaching subject–area courses and have been recommended for continuation to student teaching.

Academic Good Standing

In SESP, Academic Good Standing, is a student's default academic status in any given term when they are not currently experiencing an applied academic status of concern.

If a student has experienced an applied academic status of concern in a previous quarter and then meets the academic expectations of Academic Good Standing for the immediately following quarter (i.e. their end of term academic performance does not call for an Academic Probation or Warning to be applied), then their academic status within SESP is reset to Academic Good Standing. This step-down in academic status of concern to Academic Good Standing also resets the count of quarters of academic concern that could lead to an instance of Academic Dismissal as charted out in (but not limited to) the sequences described in the "Temporary Academic Dismissal" section of this policy.

Academic Statuses of Concern: Warning, Probation, and Dismissal

In SESP, there are 4 Academic Statuses of Concern*. In order of severity, the levels of these 4 statuses of concern are as follows:

1. Academic Warning
2. Academic Probation
3. Temporary Academic Dismissal
4. Permanent Academic Dismissal

**For information about receiving any of these academic status changes before or after a Summer Session quarter, please see the section below titled "Summer Session Rules".*

Academic Warning – Fall, Winter, and Spring

In SESP, an Academic Warning is a status of academic concern that is applied to students when there is a moderate level of concern about their academic performance.

Students will be placed on academic warning after a Fall, Winter, or Spring quarter where their academic performance results in any of the following outcomes of concern:

- your term GPA falls between a 1.7 and a 2.0
- your cumulative GPA falls at a 2.0*
- you complete a quarter where you receive 'D,' 'F,' 'X,' 'Y,' or 'W' grades that make up at least 33% of each of your final term grades
- you are not making satisfactory progress towards graduation**

** Students in the Secondary Teaching and/or Elementary Teaching SESP Concentrations are expected to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher and at least a 3.0 in either:*

1. *their humanities teaching subject-area courses or*
2. *meet an annually determined GPA in their math or science subject-areas courses*

*** See the "Satisfactory Academic Progress" section of this policy for more explanation of what it means to be making satisfactory progress towards graduation*

Decisions to place students on academic warning are reviewed (where appropriate) at the conclusion of each term of enrollment at Northwestern by the SESP Student Affairs Office. Any decision to change a student's academic status to be placed on warning will be attached only to their internal SESP student record for their next quarter of enrollment within SESP.

For example:

If a student receives the corresponding academic outcomes of concern at the conclusion of a Fall quarter and proceeds to enroll in classes at Northwestern for the immediately following Winter quarter, then they will be placed on academic warning for that same Winter quarter.

It is important to note: A student's status change to academic warning is only noted internally via the SESP Student Affairs Office advising team's student records; this status change will not appear on a student's Official or Unofficial Transcript.

If students experience any of the academic outcomes of concern listed above, they will be notified of their placement on academic warning through a letter emailed to them from the SESP Associate Director of Academic Advising. This warning letter will detail the specific academic outcomes of concern that are initiating a status change to academic warning. This letter will also describe all the necessary actions each student must take (in collaboration with their SESP Advisor) to be on the road to improvement and returning to academic good standing within SESP.

It is essential to note: Any students who are 1) currently on academic warning, and 2) experience any of the academic outcomes of concern listed above for a second consecutive quarter, will be placed on academic probation for the following quarter as opposed to being placed on academic warning for a second time. If a student experiences any of these academic outcomes of concern for a third consecutive quarter, they will be dismissed from SESP. **Given this, all academic warnings are to be taken seriously because, if unaddressed, they can lead to academic probation and possibly to academic dismissal.**

For example:

If a student's term GPA falls between a 1.7 and a 2.0 for 1 quarter, they will be placed on Academic Warning. If a student's GPA subsequently falls between a 1.7 and a 2.0 for 2 consecutive quarters, they will be placed on Academic Probation. Finally, if a student's GPA again falls between a 1.7 and a 2.0 for 3 consecutive quarters, they will receive an Academic Dismissal from the University for a minimum length of the next 2 consecutive quarters. As a result, the earliest this student could return to Northwestern would be for the following Winter quarter.

Additionally, for instances during which students experience 2 consecutive quarters of Academic Warning and/or Academic Probation, they will be required to have at least 1 meeting in their following quarter of enrollment with both their SESP Advisor and the Associate Director of Academic Advising. The meeting will include a discussion of the context of their demonstrated consistent academic outcomes of concern and the potential next steps for improvement.

Students will be removed from academic warning if they complete their next quarter of enrollment at Northwestern without experiencing any of academic outcomes of concern listed in this section. In these instances, students' academic status within SESP will be reset to Academic Good Standing. This step-down in academic status of concern to Academic Good Standing also resets the count of quarters of academic concern that could lead to an instance of Academic Dismissal as charted out in (but not limited to) the sequences described in the "Temporary Academic Dismissal" section of this policy.

Remember that your SESP Advisor is there to help at every step in the process.

Academic Warning – Fall, Winter, and Spring for First-Year Students

For any “First Time, First Year” student experiencing the academic outcomes of concern listed above within their 1st ever quarter at Northwestern, typically academic statuses changes (i.e., warning or probation) are not applied as a result of their academic performance for this initial entrance quarter into the University. **However, SESP reserves the right to place any student on warning or probation after their 1st ever quarter at Northwestern if that student is experiencing 2 or more of the academic outcomes of concern listed above simultaneously at the end of the term.**

Additionally, if a “First Time, First Year” student finds themselves with the academic outcomes of concern listed above in their 2nd or 3rd ever quarter at Northwestern, an academic warning status will be applied. **This 1st ever quarter at Northwestern exception does not apply to any incoming transfer student to Northwestern.**

Lastly, if any “First Time, First Year” student experiences 2 quarters total with academic warnings statuses within their 1st full Academic Year, they will also be placed on academic probation for the next quarter in which the student is enrolled.

Students will be removed from academic warning if they complete their next quarter of enrollment at Northwestern without experiencing any of the academic outcomes of concern listed in this section. In these instances, students’ academic status within SESP will be reset to Academic Good Standing. This step-down in academic status of concern to Academic Good Standing also resets the count of quarters of academic concern that could lead to an instance of Academic Dismissal as charted out in (but not limited to) the sequences described in the “Temporary Academic Dismissal” section of this policy.

Remember that your SESP Advisor is there to help at every step in the process.

Academic Probation – Fall, Winter, and Spring

Academic Probation is a status of academic concern that is applied to students when there is a high level of concern about their academic performance that exceeds the extent and function of an Academic Warning.

Typically, SESP students who are placed on academic probation tend to resolve this change in their academic status within 1 academic quarter allowing them to maintain their expected graduation timeline. However, if a student is placed on academic probation for 2 or more consecutive future quarters (for a total of 3 consecutive probation quarters), they will receive a minimum 3-quarter dismissal from Northwestern University which would significantly impact their desired graduation term. **Students who are most successful in resolving their academic probation statuses do so by working with their SESP Advisors in addition to the various on-campus support services to create and execute strategic academic action plans.**

Students will be placed on academic probation after a Fall, Winter, or Spring quarter where their academic performance results in any of the following outcomes of concern:

- your term GPA falls below a 1.7
- your cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0*
- you complete a quarter where you receive 'D,' 'F,' 'X,' 'Y,' or 'W' grades that make-up at least 50% (or more) than each of your final term grades
- you are not making satisfactory progress towards graduation**

** Students in the Secondary Teaching and/or Elementary Teaching SESP Concentrations are expected to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher and at least a 3.0 in either:*

1. *their humanities teaching subject-area courses or*
2. *meet an annually determined GPA in their math or science subject-areas courses*

*** See the "Satisfactory Academic Progress" section of this policy for more explanation of what it means to be making satisfactory progress towards graduation*

Decisions to place students on academic probation are reviewed (where appropriate) at the conclusion of each term of enrollment at Northwestern by the SESP Student Affairs Office. Any decision to change a student's academic status to be placed on probation will be listed on both their internal SESP student record and their Unofficial Transcript for their next quarter of enrollment within SESP.

For example:

If a student receives the corresponding academic outcomes of concern at the conclusion of a Fall quarter and proceeds to enroll in classes at Northwestern for the immediately following Winter quarter, then the student will be placed on academic probation for that same Winter quarter.

It is important to note: A student's status change to academic probation will also be noted internally via the SESP Student Affairs Office advising team's student records and will not appear on a student's Official Transcript. **However, unlike academic warnings, probation status will appear on a student's Unofficial Transcript.**

As in the case of Academic Warnings, if a student experiences any of the academic outcomes of concern listed above, they will be notified of their placement on academic probation through a letter emailed to them from the SESP Associate Director of Academic Advising. This probation letter will detail the specific academic outcomes of concern that are initiating their status change to academic probation.

Every student's probation letter is individually written by the Associate Director of Academic Advising to address the unique circumstances that led to their demonstrated academic outcomes of concern, each of their most relevant advising needs, and in consideration of the general terms and guidelines of the SESP undergraduate academic warning and probation policy. Probation letters will also describe all the necessary action steps each student must take (in collaboration with their SESP Advisor) to be on the road to improvement and returning to academic good standing within the School.

SESP students on Academic Probation are expected to work with their Advisor to determine a meeting schedule at the beginning of and throughout the quarter in which they are on probation. The primary goals of these mandatory Advisor probation meetings are to help students identify and re-engage with the skills, actions, and habits that led to their previously demonstrated strong academic performance. These Advisor probation meetings are also intended to help students identify any new or ongoing personal and/or academic obstacles that might have impacted (or might still be impacting) their ability to succeed in the classroom. Advisors will help students implement methods that directly address productive responses to their obstacles by assisting them in the process of making strategic adjustments to their academic approach or by connecting them with the best available resources and support systems.

Below are some of the typically advised action steps that might be listed in a student's probation letter. This is not an exhaustive list; SESP Advisors might include several other remediation expectations depending on each student's unique contributing factors to their demonstrated academic outcomes of concern.

- Personal reflection activities
- Strategic academic planning
- Time-management assessments
- Establishing and attending regular meetings with their SESP Advisor during the following quarter to develop a plan for improvement and to locate appropriate resources to aid them.
- Taking advantage, if necessary, of tutoring or coaching opportunities available on campus via:
 - [Academic Support and Learning Advancement \(ASLA\)](#)
 - [The Writing Place](#)
 - For student-athletes: [Academic Services & Student Development](#)

- In consultation with their SESP Advisor, determining whether health and well-being factors need to be addressed with assistance from University student support services, including:
 - [AccessibleNU](#)
 - [Wellness at Northwestern](#)
 - [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
 - [TimelyCare](#)
 - [Religious & Spiritual Life](#)
 - And/or outside counseling, stress management, etc.

It is crucial to note: A registration hold will be placed on a student's account in CAESAR if, while on Academic Probation, they do not satisfy the expectation of consistently scheduling and attending support meetings with their Advisor. This registration hold will remain on the student's account until they attend a support meeting with their SESP advisor and establish an academic plan for the remainder of their corresponding quarter as a student on Academic Probation.

Additionally, in instances when students experience 2 consecutive quarters of Academic Probation and/or Academic Warning, students will be required to have at least 1 meeting in their following quarter of enrollment with both their SESP Advisor and the Associate Director of Academic Advising. The meeting will involve discussions of the context of their demonstrated consistent academic outcomes of concern and the potential next steps for improvement.

Students will be removed from academic probation if they complete their next quarter of enrollment at Northwestern without experiencing any of the academic outcomes of concern listed in this section. In these instances, students' academic status within SESP will be reset to Academic Good Standing. This step-down in academic status of concern to Academic Good Standing also resets the count of quarters of academic concern that could lead to an instance of Academic Dismissal as charted out in (but not limited to) the sequences described in the "Temporary Academic Dismissal" section of this policy.

Remember that your SESP Advisor is there to help at every step in the process.

Special Cases - Pending Academic Status Changes due to Non-Consecutive Term Enrollment or Inter-School Transfer

In some cases, a student placed on academic warning or academic probation will not always enroll in classes at Northwestern for the quarter immediately following their academic outcomes of concern. In these instances, the student's corresponding academic status of concern will be applied to the first quarter in which they return to enrollment in Northwestern classes.

Specifically, in SESP, there are 4 special cases for how academic statuses of concern are applied when a student either returns from time away from enrollment or is applying to Inter-School Transfer into SESP in future, non-consecutive quarters. These 4 special cases occur when:

1. A student returns from a Term Withdrawal
2. A student returns from a Medical Leave of Absence
3. A student returns from an Involuntary Leave of Absence
4. A student has a pending Inter-School Transfer application from their home school into SESP.

For example:

If a student receives an academic warning or academic probation at the conclusion of a Fall quarter, then proceeds to take a Medical Leave of Absence (MLOA) for the immediately following Winter and Spring quarters, and finally enrolls in classes at Northwestern for the immediately following Summer quarter, then they will be placed on academic warning or academic probation for that same Summer quarter.

It is critical to note: When a student returns from time away from Northwestern enrollment and is placed on academic warning or academic probation in any of the special cases described above, the grace period before any potential dismissal will then only be 2 additional consecutive quarters concluding with an academic status of concern. This is as opposed to 3 consecutive quarters concluding with an academic status of concern. In any of these special cases, such an adjustment in the grace period occurs because of the way a student’s preceding probation or warning status will be carried over as the academic outcome of their most recent quarter of enrollment through their time off from the University. This warning or probation status is then applied to the first quarter in which they return to enrollment in Northwestern classes. In these cases, because the student’s Academic Good Standing status does not reset during their time away from classes, their first quarter of returned enrollment also counts as their first academic quarter of concern of the 3 in a row possible before the student receives a Temporary Academic Dismissal. **This distinction is further outlined via the chart below.**

	Status @ Beginning of QTR	Final QTR Outcome & Status
Fall 1	Academic Good Standing	Probation/Warning Grades Earned
Winter 2	Probation/Warning #1 (applied based on Fall 1 final grades)	Probation/Warning Grades Earned
Spring 2	No Enrollment	No Enrollment
Summer 2	No Enrollment	No Enrollment
Fall 2	Probation/Warning #2 (applied based on Winter 2 final grades)	Probation/Warning Grades Earned
Winter 3	Probation/Warning #3 (applied based on Fall 2 final grades)	Probation/Warning Grades Earned
Spring 3	Dismissed due to 3 consecutive QTRs of Probation/Waring Status (Winter 2, Fall 2, and Winter 3)	Dismissal for 2-3 quarters (see chart below)* For more information, see the “Academic Reinstatement” section below.

Temporary Academic Dismissal

Temporary Academic Dismissal is a status of academic concern that is applied to students when there is an exceptionally high level of concern about their academic performance that exceeds the extent and function of an Academic Probation. A temporary academic dismissal can be applied at the conclusion of any quarter of enrollment at Northwestern. The application of a temporary academic dismissal status functions differently than any other academic status of concern.

When a student is placed on temporary academic dismissal, their official Northwestern student status is temporarily revoked. In order for a student's status to be reinstated, they are required to spend a predetermined amount of time away from Northwestern with little to no affiliation with the University or its institutional resources before they will be allowed to return to enrollment in any Northwestern classes.

As a result of the temporary revocation of a student's official Northwestern student status, **while academically dismissed, students are not allowed to:**

- be involved in any Northwestern student groups, clubs, theatrical/dance productions, Intermural or Varsity athletic teams, etc.
- live in university housing or have access to university services (libraries and SPAC as examples).
- work on university- or SESP-related matters such as the Practicum, Student Teaching Experiences, or Northwestern Affiliated Research Opportunities.
- engage with or actively work towards resolving any currently outstanding incompletes during course of their dismissal.

It is important to note: In some cases, SESP reserves the right to require temporarily dismissed students to complete specific tasks while away from the University in order to be eligible for academic reinstatement. These stipulations are listed below in the section titled, "Academic Reinstatement".

Decisions to place students on a temporary academic dismissal are reviewed (where appropriate) at the conclusion of each term of enrollment at Northwestern by the SESP Student Affairs Office. Any decision to change a student's academic status to be placed on temporary academic dismissal will be listed on their internal SESP student record for their next quarter of enrollment within SESP.

Students will be placed on temporary academic dismissal if they experience any of the following outcomes of concern:

- i. they are placed on Academic Warning and/or Academic Probation for at least 3 consecutive quarters.
 - In some cases, a student may be placed on a temporary academic dismissal after 4 consecutive quarters of applied academic concern.*
- ii. they are not making satisfactory progress toward their graduation requirements.

As is the case with Academic Warnings and Academic Probations, students will be notified of their placement on Temporary Academic Dismissal through a letter emailed to them from the SESP Associate Director of Academic Advising. This probation letter will detail the specific academic outcomes of concern that are initiating their status change to temporary academic dismissal.

Given the time away from Northwestern that any temporary academic dismissal requires, the SESP Student Affairs Office understands that students may or may not want to disclose the details of their dismissal with their family members. It is important to know that SESP Advisors cannot discuss the circumstances of any temporary academic dismissal with anyone other than the student themselves (or other University employees on a need-to-know basis) without the student signing a FERPA Release form to have that information shared. If a student would like to have a family member be a part of their dismissal discussions, the student should contact their SESP Advisor for guidance on how to obtain and submit a FERPA Release.

It is important to note: A student’s status change to temporary academic dismissal will also be noted internally via the SESP Student Affairs Office advising team’s student records. **However, it will also appear on a student’s Unofficial and Official Transcripts notated at the end of the relevant term.** In addition, when a student experiences a temporary academic dismissal, several other Northwestern offices maybe notified as they manage key administrative processes that are essential to facilitating a student’s transition from enrolled to unenrolled student and vice versa. These offices are the University Registrar’s Office and the Dean of Students Office via the [Student Assistance and Support Services \(SASS\)](#) team. Depending on their relevance to your affiliation/participation with other key University offices (like OISS, Athletics, Housing, Financial Aid) will also be notified.

In rare cases, a student may be placed on more than one temporary academic dismissal throughout their time in SESP. In these instances, the chart below shows the progression in how multiple temporary academic dismissals will impact the predetermined amount of time a student must spend away from Northwestern with little to no affiliation with the University or its institutional resources before they will be allowed to return to enrollment in any Northwestern classes.

Number of Dismissals	Minimum Required Length of Time Away
First Dismissal (Temporary)	2-3 quarters*
Second Dismissal (Temporary)	1 year
Third Dismissal (Temporary)	5 quarters
Fourth Dismissal (Permanent Dismissal)	Students may not return as a SESP undergrad

The minimum number of quarters that a student will be temporarily dismissed **for their first instance of dismissal is dependent upon the relationship between the level of severity for each of their applied academic statuses and the sequence in which they have experienced the corresponding academic outcomes of concern within 3 or 4 consecutive quarters of enrollment.*

In other words, because Academic Warning is a moderate level of academic concern and Academic Probation is a high level of academic concern, a student may experience a variety of step-ups or step-downs in the severity of the academic statuses of concern that are applied to them along their progression toward being placed on their first temporary academic dismissal.

In this way, occasionally the decision to place a student on their first temporary academic dismissal can become more complicated. In an effort to aid in a clearer understanding of how dismissal decisions are made in these cases, please refer to the charts below for further guidance.

Possible Quarter Outcome Sequences that lead to First Instance of Temporary Academic Dismissal for Minimum of 2 Quarters					
	Quarter 1 Outcome	Quarter 2 Outcome	Quarter 3 Outcome	Quarter 4 Outcome	Quarter 5 Outcome
POSSIBLE SEQUENCE #1	Warning	Warning (2 Warning quarters in a row make this equal to a Probation Quarter)	Warning (2 Warning quarters in a row make this equal to a Probation Quarter)	Dismissal for 2 Quarters	
POSSIBLE SEQUENCE #2	Warning	Warning (2 Warning quarters in a row make this equal to a Probation Quarter)	Probation	Dismissal for 2 Quarters	
POSSIBLE SEQUENCE #3	Warning	Probation	Probation	Dismissal for 2 Quarters	
POSSIBLE SEQUENCE #4**	Warning	Probation	Warning	Warning (2 Warning quarters in a row make this equal to a Probation Quarter)	Dismissal for 2 Quarters
POSSIBLE SEQUENCE #5**	Warning	Probation	Warning	Probation	Dismissal for 2 Quarters

Possible Quarter Outcome Sequences that lead to First Instance of Temporary Academic Dismissal for Minimum of 3 Quarters					
	Quarter 1 Outcome	Quarter 2 Outcome	Quarter 3 Outcome	Quarter 4 Outcome	Quarter 5 Outcome
POSSIBLE SEQUENCE #6	Probation	Probation	Probation	Dismissal for 3 Quarters	
POSSIBLE SEQUENCE #7**	Probation	Warning	Probation	Probation	Dismissal for 3 Quarters
POSSIBLE SEQUENCE #8**	Probation	Warning	Warning (2 Warning quarters in a row make this equal to a Probation Quarter)	Probation	Dismissal for 3 Quarters
POSSIBLE SEQUENCE #9**	Probation	Warning	Probation	Probation	Dismissal for 3 Quarters
POSSIBLE SEQUENCE #10**	Probation	Probation	Warning	Probation	Dismissal for 3 Quarters
POSSIBLE SEQUENCE #11**	Probation	Probation	Warning	Warning (2 Warning quarters in a row make this equal to a Probation Quarter)	Dismissal for 3 Quarters

***You will also notice, in the charts above, that there are some sequences where a student is not dismissed after a third consecutive quarter of being on Academic Warning and/or Academic Probation and instead is dismissed after a fourth consecutive quarter. These sequences are informed by instances where a student who experienced a status of Academic Probation in a previous quarter then experiences a step-down in applied status to an Academic Warning for their immediately following quarter, thus demonstrating some considerable evidence of academic improvement (although not resetting their academic status to Academic Good Standing).*

In these cases, where a student experiences probation at the end of one quarter and then a warning at the end of the following quarter, they are afforded 1 additional quarter of enrollment to attempt to improve their academic performance in acknowledgement of their positive academic trend.

However, it is critical to note: Any combination of 4 consecutive quarters resulting in academic statuses of concern will lead to a student being placed on their first instance of temporary academic dismissal regardless of any step-down from Academic Probation at the end of previous quarter to Academic Warning at the end of the quarter immediately following.

Special Case: Possible Quarter Outcome Sequence that leads to First Instance of Temporary Academic Dismissal					
Quarter 1 Outcome	Quarter 2 Outcome	Quarter 3 Outcome	Quarter 4 Outcome	Quarter 5 Outcome	RATIONALE
Probation	Warning	Probation	Warning	Dismissal for 2 or 3 Quarters Dismissal length depends on review of total trend of academic performance & outcomes	Additional contributing factors for each quarter's academic Probation/Warning status will be reviewed overall on a case-by-case basis for each student to determine the necessary dismissal length.

In addition to the above conditions for academic warning, probation, and dismissal, the University has its own campus-wide policies regarding academic probation and dismissal. A description of the [University policies](#) can be found in the Northwestern University Undergraduate Catalog.

Academic Probation & Dismissal - Impact on Financial Aid

For any student who may experience multiple quarters of academic probation, multiple quarters of temporary academic dismissal, and/or multiple instances of temporary academic dismissal, it is important to note that their eligibility for financial aid may be impacted due to these performance outcomes and the Undergraduate Financial Aid Office's definition of [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) (SAP).

More information about the University's Undergraduate Financial Aid SAP can be found by visiting this website: <https://undergradaid.northwestern.edu/aid-basics-eligibility/satisfactory-academic-progress.html>

Academic Reinstatement

Returning from Temporary Academic Dismissal

While dismissed, a student must take the following actions to successfully return to SESP and Northwestern:

- Meet with their SESP Advisor to initially discuss the situation and develop an action plan.
- Continue frequent communication with their SESP Advisor to discuss implementation of the action plan.
- Contact Financial Aid (if applicable) to confirm if/how their aid has been impacted and how it will be reinstated (this requires a long-term academic plan developed with your SESP Advisor).
- Put in place the necessary resources for continued success – tutoring, coaching, CAPS, etc.
- Complete and submit a [Former Students Re-Entry \(FRET\) form](#) found on the Registrar's website. (Your registration hold will be lifted around this time.)

If the circumstances of a Temporary Academic Dismissal are determined by a SESP Advisor or the Associate Director of Academic Advising to be closely related to concerns about a student's inconsistent in-class participation and/or attendance, that student may be required to:

A) Successfully complete courses for credit at another academic institution in order to be reinstated to the school.

OR

B) Successfully complete free courses available through one of several SESP pre-approved Massive Open Online Course providers in order to be reinstated to the school.

In the case of completing courses for credit at another institution, students may elect to take their pre-determined, required number of courses to fulfill distribution requirements or major requirements if the proper approval is received.

- For this option, the student should get these courses pre-approved by the respective Northwestern department to make sure they will be accepted.
- The student must receive a "B" or higher in any classes taken at a community college, or a "C" or higher in classes taken at a four-year institution in order to earn transfer credit. This is required to demonstrate their ability to return to, and succeed at, Northwestern.
- They must, after completing these courses, have the credits transferred back to their Northwestern Degree Progress. To do this, they must have a copy of their transcript from the outside institution sent to the Registrar's Office

In the case of completing free Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), students may elect to take their pre-determined, required number of courses via one of the following approved providers:

- [Coursera](#)
- [edX](#)
- [LinkedIn Learning](#)
- [MIT OCW](#)
- [Northwestern Digital Learning](#)
- [Stanford Online](#)

For the MOOCs option, the student should get these courses pre-approved by their SESP Advisor to ensure acceptability to be used to support their reinstatement process to SESP.

In special cases, this course completion requirement can be satisfied obtaining and submitting a letter of support from a work supervisor confirming that the student has consistently completed all their work tasks and duties while maintaining satisfactory attendance to their job site.

Academic Good Standing (after returning from Academic Dismissal)

When a student returns to enrollment at Northwestern after their required temporary academic dismissal, their academic status within SESP is reset to Academic Good Standing. Importantly, once a student has returned from their first temporary academic dismissal, their grace period before another dismissal can be applied to their student status is reduced from the 3 consecutive quarters concluding with an academic status of concern down to 2 consecutive quarters concluding with an academic status of concern.

To be specific, if a student who returns from a temporary academic dismissal experiences any of the corresponding academic outcomes of concern for either an academic warning or academic probation at the conclusion of any 2 consecutive quarters on their way to graduation, they will receive an additional academic dismissal. This action follows the academic status change progression detailed previously in the “Temporary Academic Dismissal” section of this policy.

It is also crucial to note: The total number of times a student can be placed on temporary academic dismissal throughout their time in SESP and Northwestern is limited to 3 occurrences before a student is permanently dismissed from the University.

Permanent Academic Dismissal

Permanent Academic Dismissal is a status of academic concern that is applied to students when there is an extraordinarily high level of concern about their academic performance that exceeds the extent and function of a Temporary Academic Dismissal.

Students will be placed on permanent academic dismissal if they experience any of the following outcomes of concern:

- they are placed on Temporary Academic Dismissal for a fourth time.

Decisions to academically dismiss students from SESP and the University are reviewed (where appropriate) at the conclusion of each term of enrollment at Northwestern by the SESP Student Affairs Office. Any decision to change a student's academic status to Academic Dismissal will be listed on their internal SESP student record, on their Unofficial Transcript, as well as on their Official Transcript according to the quarter in which they are officially excluded from enrollment in SESP and at Northwestern at large.

A permanent academic dismissal from SESP is the final academic status of concern applicable within SESP and culminates in the immediate and permanent exclusion from the School of Education and Social Policy and all other undergraduate schools at Northwestern University. If a student reaches this level of status change, they will no longer be allowed to pursue their undergraduate degree within the School of Education and Social Policy at any time in the future. For a student in SESP to receive a permanent academic dismissal is an extremely rare occurrence.

Summer Session Rules

A SESP student experiencing the corresponding academic outcomes of concern that would constitute their placement on academic warning or probation at the end of a Spring quarter will have their academic warning or probation status change applied to their Summer Session quarter should they choose to enroll in any Summer Session courses at Northwestern. If this same student chooses to not enroll in Summer Session courses at Northwestern, their academic warning or probation status change will be applied instead to their next quarter of enrollment at Northwestern.

Given this policy, most typically, students who are placed on academic warning or probation at the conclusion of a Spring quarter, and who do not enroll in Summer Session courses at Northwestern, will have their academic status change applied to their immediately following Fall quarter.

Additionally, there are several significant caveats to how academic warning and probation statuses are applied when a student's academic outcomes of concern lead into and/or occur at the conclusion of a Summer Session quarter. This is due to how the University's Undergraduate Registration Requirements policy currently stipulates that in order for a Summer Session quarter to constitute as a "Northwestern quarter," the student must complete at least 2 units for the term.

Summer Academic Status of Concern Removal

Any student enrolled in 3 or more course units specific to their SESP degree program during a Summer Session quarter, and who receives a term GPA that falls above a 2.0, will have their academic warning or probation removed from their next quarter of enrollment within SESP.

Summer Credits from Outside Institutions

A student not enrolled in courses at Northwestern during a Summer Session quarter may have their academic warning status removed by taking class at another accredited higher education institution and earning Transfer Credit. This can be done if the student earns the same number of Transfer Credits as the number of Units by which their academic outcomes of concern have caused them to fall behind with regard to their SESP Degree Progress.

A student not enrolled in courses at Northwestern during a Summer Session quarter may have their academic probation status dropped down an academic warning by taking classes at another accredited higher education institution and earning at least 2 Units of Transfer Credit.

In rare cases, a student not enrolled in courses at Northwestern during a Summer Session quarter may have their academic probation status removed by taking classes at another accredited higher education institution and earning at least 3 Units of Transfer Credit.

Post Summer Session - Academic Warning:

Any student enrolled in 3 or more course units specific to their SESP degree program during a Summer Session quarter who receives a term GPA that falls between a 1.7 and a 2.0 will be placed on academic warning for their next quarter of enrollment within SESP.

Post Summer Session - Academic Probation:

Any student enrolled in 3 or more course units specific to their SESP degree program during a Summer Session quarter who receives a term GPA that falls below a 1.7 will be placed on academic probation for their next quarter of enrollment within SESP.

Post Summer Session - SESP Practicum/Student Teaching Experience:

Any student enrolled in a 4 Unit SESP Practicum or Student Teaching Experience during a Summer Session quarter **who receives a final grade of X or Y in this course will be placed on academic warning for their next quarter of enrollment within SESP.**

Any student enrolled in a 4 Unit SESP Practicum or Student Teaching Experience during a Summer Session quarter **who receives a final grade of D or F will be placed on academic probation for their next quarter of enrollment within SESP.**

Summer Academic Dismissal

The SESP Temporary Academic Dismissal rules apply the same at the conclusion of a Summer Session Quarter as they would after a Fall, Winter, or Spring quarter if a student experiences the corresponding academic outcomes of concern that would constitute either a temporary academic dismissal from SESP or a permanent academic dismissal from the University at large.

Grade Requirements for Graduation

You must obtain a "C-" or higher in each distribution, concentration, and core course to graduate. In addition, you must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 ("C") in all work presented for the degree. HDC, LOC, LS, and Social Policy students may obtain a "C-" in a core, concentration, or distribution courses provided that an overall 2.0 is maintained in those areas. (Secondary and Elementary Teaching students must earn a "C"). The P/N option may not be elected for any core, concentration, or distribution course. No more than a total of six P's or D's (or approximately one-seventh of the total of 42 units presented for graduation) are allowed among your graduation requirements. Of these, a maximum of six courses may be P's.