A. INTRODUCTION

The CU Denver Campus of the University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) has a long-standing practice of working with students who go on academic probation. Academic Warning (formerly referred to as ‘Academic Probation’) probation is an academic standing status which indicates a warning to students that they are not yet progressing toward completion of their degree in a satisfactory manner. Students are placed on Academic Warning probation when their cumulative CU GPA falls below a 2.0 at the end of any academic term. Many of our undergraduate students are impacted by this policy. In a review of the Fall 2014 probation/suspension data, of the 1,363 first-time students (full and part time), 337 (25%) posted GPAs below 2.0 in their first term. Of these students, 101 (30%) never returned to CU Denver. A study of the fall 2011 – 2017 Fall 2020 first-time students yielded similar findings.

The proposed revisions to this policy aim to 1) improve the overall student experience...
with academic standing, specifically academic probation, 2) allow students on restricted academic probation to enroll up to 13 credit hours per semester, and 3) improve the retention of success of these students.

Under existing policy, a student on Academic Probation is required to complete the Academic Success Plan (ASPP) packet during their first semester where their cumulative GPA is below 2.0. Under the current policy, students who go on Restricted Academic Probation are restricted to enrolling in no more than seven credit hours precluded from enrolling full time. This stipulation has rendered some of our most diverse students at a distinct disadvantage. For example, students required to be enrolled full time (defined as 12 credits) - as stipulated by their visa type, scholarship, or veteran’s benefits requirements - are unable to do so if they are on Restricted Academic Probation. Moreover, research of CU Denver’s 11 peer and 4 “non-peer” institutions revealed that CU Denver was alone in this restriction as all of the other 15 institutions either had no limit or used 13 credit hours as the limit. The dramatic attrition of students on academic probation points to potential barriers in our internal processes relevant to our current practices around academic standing. The revisions contained herein seek to remedy these obstacles.

The proposed revisions to this policy aim to 1) improve the overall student experience with academic standing when their cumulative falls below 2.0, specifically academic probation, 2) allow students on restricted academic probation to enroll in up to 13 credit hours per semester, and 3) improve retention, persistence, and graduation success of these students.

The amended policy removes the contractual ASP from the academic probation process and instead requires students to complete an accessible and more robust online module. The module was developed with student development and learning in mind, and aims to help move students attain higher levels of academic success and deeper personal growth. (See Appendix A). It will aid students in preparing a concrete action plan that they must submit to their academic advisors. It will also increase awareness around newer university policies, such as Campus Policy 7037, Grade Forgiveness, that may help them improve their GPAs, and effectively enhance their learning, and connect them with the many resources available to them on campus. Implementation of an online module will also improve the business practices for the academic units and centralized...
The overarching goal of these changes is to increase retention, persistence, and graduation of these students.

B. POLICY STATEMENT

This proposed update to the policy establishes maintains three four-three levels of student status—academic standing—good standing, probation, and suspension—that which are consistent with current and past practices. This update updated-policy proposes changes to the terminology for three of the four levels of academic standing. Within the colleges, students are classified as being either on academic warning, academic probation or academic supervision, or academic suspension/restricted probation. These two levels of probation before automatically being suspended; and 2) allow the a newly created online-module and academic advising to serve as vehicles for supporting students in their return-to-good standing.

Academic Probation

1. Student’s cumulative CU GPA (grade point average) falls below 2.00, (individual colleges and schools may trigger probation if GPA in the major falls below 2.00.)
2. Student notified via university e-mail and regular postal mail of status
3. Student must complete Academic Support Module (online tool described in Section D.1)
4. Advisor Registrar’s office places service indicator advising hold on student’s registration (via batch update process) each semester
5. Once cumulative GPA reaches 2.00 or better, student is considered in good standing, and advising service indicators are no longer placed on student’s registration

Academic-Alert

Restricted Academic Probation

1. If student is unable to achieve a 2.0 semester GPA or better while on academic probation in any given semester, student is placed on “restricted probation” and notified via university e-mail
2. Student is restricted to a maximum course load of 13 credits in subsequent semesters until their cumulative GPA is at or above 2.00
3. Students on restricted-academic probation supervision alert are required to meet with their academic advisor each and every semester before registering for classes. This is enforced through a service indicator
4. Advisor Registrar’s office places service indicator advising hold on student’s registration (via batch update process) each semester
5. Once cumulative GPA reaches 2.00 or better, student is considered in good standing, and advising service indicators are no longer placed on student’s registration
Academic Suspension

1. Students on Restricted Academic Supervision who do not meet the 2.000 minimum semester GPA will be placed on Academic Suspension.

2. A student’s Academic Suspension status is permanently indicated on their official University of Colorado transcript.

3. The minimum duration of Academic Suspension is for a period of one year (three semesters, including summer term).

4. Students placed on Academic Suspension will be unable to take courses from any CU campus during this time.

5. Should a student be placed on Academic Suspension while registered for the next semester, they will be administratively dropped from their courses.

6. Students who choose to attend another institution while on Academic Suspension can take as many or as few credits as they choose, but must earn a 2.75 cumulative GPA in all transferable coursework if planning to return to CU Denver. Students should consult the academic advisor of their intended major to discuss appropriate course selection.

7-8. After the one-year suspension period has elapsed, students must petition the appellate committee (of the school or college they wish to enter) for readmission, and meet and document at least one of the following criteria:

   a. Attendance at another regionally accredited college/university where they earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.750 in transferable credit.
   b. Explanation of their previous academic difficulty, demonstration of what has changed, and how readmission will allow them to now achieve and maintain good academic standing.

8. If a student is granted readmission and their CU GPA is below a 2.000, they will be readmitted on Restricted Academic Supervision Probation. These students must meet the minimum condition term GPA requirement for Restricted Academic Supervision Probation every semester until their cumulative CU GPA is at least a 2.000.

C. PROCEDURES

Academic probation alerts entail:

1. Student Completes Appointment with student’s academic advisor/advising unit: Academic Support Module (ASM)

   The ASM will be housed in Canvas, which students can access through their student portal, UCDAccess.

   The goals of the ASM are to improve retention and graduation of students on probation by a) introducing them to valuable campus resources, b) informing them of campus policies such as Grade Forgiveness, and c) establishing a supportive relationship with their assigned academic advisor as well as the executive director of academic advising. The module can be completed in roughly one hour or less.
During second appointment, student and advisor review packet, talk about options and resources. The ASM Advisor refers student to Financial Aid and/or the Office of International Affairs, Student & Scholar Services, as applicable, to discuss ramifications of academic probation. Student is unable to register for term until the packet is completed and student has met with advisor. Upon completion of the ASM, student is able to register as usual through their student portal.

Three Major Components of the ASM

A self-reflection exercise that allows students to honestly identify personal or other challenges that may have contributed to their academic status

a) Identification of campus resources that they will reach out to for additional support

1. Discuss campus resources that may aid in promoting your future academic success
   — Inquire into the details of Resource’s operation and mission.
2. Explore connection between Resource services and your needs/interests

b) The development of a personalized action plan for getting back on good academic standing
   Action Plan to include:
   a) Outline of next step activities, relevant campus resources to seek out, and related timeline/deadline
   b) Identify methods for measuring the outcomes
   c) Date for follow-up appointment with advisor as appropriate
   d) Plans can be submitted in written, audio or video form and are submitted through the ASM

2. Upon submission of Action Plan, a student’s assigned advisor will

   a) Utilize common rubric to assess students’ action plans and conduct thoughtful review.

   b) Submit feedback to student’s Action Plan. Advisor feedback can be in written, video or audio form.

   c) Advisors must review students’ action plans and offer submit their feedback and assessment of plans within either 23 weeks from the time of student submission, occurred or 3 weeks of a common deadline for all students, by semester.
   d) Advisors will utilize common grading scoring metric to grade students’ action plans to determine whether they have met the requirement or if their plan is still developing. If the latter,
advisor will state what is missing from the plan and encourage student to address the issue(s) prior to resubmitting their plan.

Advisor gives student Academic Success packet.
Student must complete packet and make second appointment with academic advisor.

Student has five attendance semesters or 30 hours to improve cumulative CU GPA to

If student fails to achieve 2.0300 or better while on academic probation in any given semester, student is placed on “restricted probation Academic Warning” and notified via university e-mail.

During student’s first meeting with an advisor on academic alert, the meeting will be guided by the attached handout (Academic Alert Advisor Meeting).

Major components include:

Discussion of what contributed to student’s academic performance.
Referral to campus resources.

Discussion and/or development of student’s action plan.

D. ACADeMIC PERFORMACE-RELATED PROCEDURES

Early Alert (program to identify students’ academic difficulties early in the semester)

1. Student’s faculty member notifies academic advising units of academic difficulties via Early Alert Progress Reports and Alerts in the Navigate system.

2. Academic advisor Navigate issues automated emails to notifies students of their Early Alert(s) and encourages student to make an appointment with their assigned advising units.

3. Students encouraged to “meet” with their advisors either face-to-face, online, or by phone, email, or Zoom to discuss the alert, possible ramifications (such as restricted academic probation), and campus resources.

4. No restrictions on enrollment or class load at this time

Notes

1. Dates of official enactment and amendments:
   August 15, 2010: Adopted / Approved by the Provost
   January 1, 2011: Amended
   January 1, 2012: Amended
   February 1, 2019: Modified

2. History:
January 1, 2011: Added definition of “Early Alert” and of “flag” on student record.
February 1, 2019: Modified to reflect a Campus-wide effort to recast and revitalize various campus policy sites into a standardized and more coherent set of chaptered policy statements organized around the several operational divisions of the university.

3. Initial Policy Effective Date: August 15, 2010

4. Cross References/Appendix:
   • Appendix A, Academic Support Module
APPENDIX A: SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL
Online Academic Success Support Module

Outcomes
- Empower students through self-guided strength-based reflection and informational modules that align with the academic standing policy
- Connect student with targeted university resources
- Increase retention and graduation rates through an accessible and educational course
- Prevent progression towards suspension with a required intervention process

Outline of Tentative Canvas Course

I. Module 1 - Introduction to Online Module
   a. Short video to welcome students to the module – message from the Executive Director of Academic Advising and advising representative from student’s school/college/advising unit.
   b. Positive and informative message defining probation and the course

II. Section Module 2 - Reflection of difficult Situation
   a. Complete self-reflection exercise and submit responses (written, audio or voice)
   b. Goal-Identifying obstacles and hardships contributing to academic performance
      i. Identifying obstacles that are self-selected by a series of questions - checklist
         1. Obstacles/problems are paired with resources on the back end
         2. Possibly a resource notification process that alerts outreach from specific resources

III. Section Module 3 - Goal Setting and Identifying Strengths
    Resources
    a. Resources are grouped by resource type and hyperlinked to respective websites
    e.a. Goal: Students will create an action plan utilizing SMART goals
        i. S - Specific: Make your goal as specific as possible
           Example: I will have a 2.5 cumulative GPA
        M - Measureable: Be sure that your goal is measurable
           Example: I will be able to measure whether or not I have achieved my desired GPA at the end of the semester.
        A - Attainable: Set goals that you can achieve
           Example: I have done the math and know that a 2.5 cumulative GPA by the end of the semester is possible.
        R - Realistic: Set goals that are realistic
           Example: I can achieve a 2.5 cumulative GPA if I earn 4 Bs and 1 C this semester.
        T - Timely: Establish a timeline for reaching your goal
           Example: I can achieve my goal by the end of the semester.

IV. Section Module 4 - Campus Policy 7037, Grade Forgiveness & grade point average review

V. Section 4 Build and Submit an Action Plan Campus Policy 7037, Grade Forgiveness & grade point average review
a. Goal-Students will create an action plan utilizing SMART goals  
   i. **S - Specific:** Make your goal as specific as possible  
      Example: I will have a 2.5 cumulative GPA  
   M - **Measurable:** Be sure that your goal is measurable  
      Example: I will be able to measure whether or not I have achieved my desired GPA at the end of the semester.  
   A - **Attainable:** Set goals that you can achieve  
      Example: I have done the math and know that a 2.5 cumulative GPA by the end of the semester is possible.  
   R - **Realistic:** Set goals that are realistic  
      Example: I can achieve a 2.5 cumulative GPA if I earn 4 Bs and 1 C this semester.  
   T - **Timely:** Establish a timeline for reaching your goal  
      Example: I can achieve my goal by the end of the semester

II. Module 5 - Conclusion  
   a. Submit short write-up, video or audio response through Canvas course  
   b. Summary response  
      i. Action Plan that also  
      ii. mention two campus Resources that you will reach out to

Additional Information  
• Modules are intended to be short and timely  
• Videos may have the capabilities to include subtitles and/or captions

C. PROCEDURES  
   **Academic Warning entails:**  
   1. Student Completes Academic Support Module (ASM)  
      The ASM will be housed in Canvas, where students can access through their student portal, UCDAccess. The goals of the ASM are to improve retention and graduation of students on probation by a) introducing them to valuable campus resources, b) informing them of campus policies such as Grade Forgiveness, and c) establishing a supportive relationship with their assigned academic advisor as well as the Executive Director of Academic Advising. The module can be completed in roughly one hour or less.

      The ASM refers student to the office of Financial Aid & Scholarship and/or the Office of International Student & Scholar Services, as applicable, to discuss ramifications of academic probation. Upon completion of the ASM, student is able to register as usual through their student portal.

   **Three Major Components of the ASM**  
   a) A self-reflection exercise that allows students to honestly identify personal or other challenges that may have contributed
to their academic status
b) Identification of campus resources that they will reach out to for additional support
   1. Discuss campus resources that may aid in promoting your future academic success
   2. Inquire into the details of Resource’s operation and mission.
   3. Explore connection between Resource services and your needs/interests
c) The development of a personalized action plan for getting back on good academic standing
   1. Action Plan to include:
      a) Outline of next-step activities, relevant campus resources to seek out, and related timeline/deadline
      b) Identify methods for measuring the outcomes
      c) Date for follow-up appointment with advisor, as appropriate
      d) Plans can be submitted in written, audio or video form and are submitted through the ASM

2. Upon submission of Action Plan, a student’s assigned advisor will
   a) Utilize common rubric to assess students’ actions plans and conduct thoughtful review
   b) Submit feedback to student’s action plan. Advisor feedback can be in written, video or audio form.
   d) Advisors must review students’ action plans and offer their feedback and assessment of plans within 2 weeks from the time of student submission.
   e) Advisors will utilize common scoring metric to review students’ action plans to determine whether they have met the requirement or if their plan is still developing. If the latter, advisor will state what is missing from the plan and encourage student to address the issue(s) prior to resubmitting their plan.
APPENDIX B: ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES

The following process steps are completed as indicated for the different levels:

Academic Warning:

1. Registrar’s office places service indicator on student’s registration (via batch update process) each semester
2. Once cumulative GPA reaches 2.000 or better, student is considered in good standing, and advising service indicators are no longer placed on student’s registration

Academic Supervision

1. Students meeting with their academic advisor each semester is enforced. This is enforced through a service indicator
2. Registrar’s office places service indicator on student’s registration (via batch update process) each semester
3. Once cumulative GPA reaches 2.000 or better, student is considered in good standing, and advising service indicators are no longer placed on student’s registration

D. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE-RELATED PROCEDURES

Early Alert (program to identify students’ academic difficulties early in the semester)

1. Student’s faculty member notifies academic advising units of academic difficulties via Progress Reports and Alerts in the Navigate system.
2. Navigate issues automated emails to notify students of their Early Alert(s) and encourages student to make an appointment with their assigned advising units.
3. Students encouraged to meet with their advisors either face-to-face, online, or by phone, email, or Zoom to discuss the alert, possible ramifications (such as restricted academic probation), and campus resources.
4. No restrictions on enrollment or class load at this time