Suspension and Probation FAQs

1. Does my transfer gpa count when determining whether or not I am in good standing academically?

No, only grades earned from Winona State are used in determining academic status. You must have a WSU cumulative gpa of 2.0 or higher by the time you have attempted 16 credits to be in good standing.

2. What is credit completion rate?

You complete a credit by earning an A, B, C, D, or P. If you earn an F, W, or NC, that is considered not completed. To determine your cumulative completion rate, you need to add all of the credits you have completed (classes in which you got an A, B, C, D, or P) at WSU and divide that by the credits attempted (the first number PLUS all the classes you got an F, W, or NC in). Therefore, if you took four 3-credit classes (12 credits attempted), and earned an A, a B, a W, and an F (6 credits completed), you would have a 50% completion rate. The minimum completion rate for good standing is 67%.

3. Will dropping a class affect my academic standing?

Dropping or withdrawing from a class may affect your academic standing IF it causes your credit completion rate to go below the minimum of 67%. When you withdraw from a class with a “W,” that is, you withdraw after the last day to drop with a tuition refund and before the published last deadline to withdraw from classes, it will negatively affect your credit completion rate.

4. Will repeating a class affect my academic standing?

Yes, repeating a class can affect your academic standing. When you repeat a class, only the second grade earned is used in calculating your gpa; therefore, you can raise your gpa by repeating a class that you did poorly in the first time. This could have a positive effect on your academic standing. However, if you repeat a class that you have already completed (with an A, B, C, D, or P), you will negatively affect your credit completion rate, because it can only count as completed once. Both your gpa and your credit completion rate must be above the minimum standards to be in good academic standing.

5. So should I repeat this class or not?
Good general advice is that it can only help you if you are repeating a class you failed, unless of course you fail the course again. However, if you are repeating a class you got a D or better in, you will want to consider the impact on your credit completion rate as part of the decision-making process. It would be wise to consult your academic advisor when making this decision.

6. Is it true that I can be suspended without having been placed on probation first?

Yes, it is true. If the spring semester is the first time you have ever fallen below the minimum academic standards, you will still receive a notice of suspension rather than probation. The reason for this is that Winona State only suspends students at the end of the academic year. There are many good reasons for this – students have time to make appeals, take summer classes to try to get into good standing, or even just make other plans for their future. If our policy included a mandatory probation period, that would result in some students being allowed to go on too long performing poorly, without intervention or consequences, and might cause a student to get into such a deep “hole” academically that he or she cannot find a way to dig out of it. Students who are placed on suspension without having been placed on probation first are strongly encouraged to submit a written appeal.