

V. PROBATION AND DISMISSAL FOR FAILURE TO MEET ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS



Preamble

The faculty of the University of South Carolina School of Law believes that the rigorous maintenance of high academic standards is of utmost importance. The grade average requirements students must satisfy in order to remain in school represent the bare minimum of what can properly be demanded of one who expects to enter the practice of law. Clearly, the broader aim of the institution is to promote in all its graduates a higher level of competence. There is, thus, ample justification for dismissing any student who cannot meet even these minimal requirements, however narrow the margin of failure may happen to be in any given case.

Students will be held absolutely accountable for their performance at the Law School. It is thus incumbent upon all students to arrange their study habits and personal affairs in such a way as to maximize academic performance. When it appears that this performance will be adversely affected by extraordinary personal circumstances beyond the student's control, it is the responsibility of the student to determine this and to take such steps as are necessary to obviate the difficulty before it results in academic failure.

RULE 1: *Standards for Automatic Dismissal for Failure to Meet Academic Requirements.*

Except for graduating seniors in their final semester (see RULE 5), any of the following will result in automatic dismissal for failure to meet minimal academic requirements.

- (a) A grade average for any individual semester after the first semester of the first year below 1.5.
- (b) A cumulative overall grade average at any time after the first semester of the first year of less than 2.0.
- (c) Failure to meet the requirements for being removed from academic probation as specified in RULE 3.
- (d) Obtaining a grade of F in more than two courses.

RULE 2: *Standards for Placing Students on Academic Probation for Failure to Meet Academic Requirements.*

Any student whose grade average for an individual semester falls below two point zero (2.0) but who is not otherwise subject to dismissal under RULE 1 shall be placed on academic probation for failure to meet academic requirements.

RULE 3: *Standards for Removing Students from Probation.*

Any student whose aggregate grade average for the probationary semester and the preceding semester is two point zero (2.0) or better, who satisfies such other requirements as may be imposed, and who is not otherwise subject to dismissal under RULE 1, shall be removed from probation at the end of the probationary semester.

RULE 4: *Standards for Conditional Readmission of Probationers until Grades are Reported.*

Any student placed on probation under the provisions of RULE 2 shall be allowed to register and attend classes during the semester or summer school term following the probationary semester until such time as the student's grades for the probationary semester have been so reported. The student shall be allowed to continue enrollment as a student in good standing only if the requirements of the probation are met. If the requirements of the probation are not met, the student shall be required to withdraw from enrollment in the Law School and shall be dismissed under the provisions of RULE 1. A student who is required to withdraw under the provisions of this Rule shall be entitled to the return of such portion of the student's tuition as may be permitted by the regulations of the University of South Carolina.

RULE 5: *Standards Governing Students Who Fail to Meet Academic Requirements in the Semester They are Scheduled to Graduate.*

Violation of the provisions of RULE 1 in the semester a student is scheduled to graduate shall result in automatic dismissal except when the only subparagraph violated is Rule 1(a) (student's grade average for the semester is below 1.5) in which case the student shall not be dismissed but shall be placed on probation and required to complete an additional probationary semester under the conditions of RULE 3.

RULE 6: *Summer School Terms.*

The summer school term shall not be considered an "individual semester" or a "probationary semester" for any purpose under these Rules. Grades received during the summer school term shall be included in the average of the grades received in the next following individual semester, and the student's cumulative overall grade average shall not be computed until that time. Probationary students shall be allowed to enroll in the summer school subject to the provisions of RULE 4.

RULE 7: *Notice.*

All students subject to dismissal or probation shall be given timely notice after their academic status is determined by the Law School. Failure to receive notice under this Rule is not to be construed as a waiver of any other Rule.

RULE 8: *Standards for Computing Grade Averages.*

Individual semester grade averages and cumulative overall grade averages, as used in these rules, shall be computed on the following basis:

- (a) for each course, multiply the numerical value of the grade received by the credit hours of that course;
- (b) total these figures (semesterly and cumulatively);
- (c) divide this figure by the total number of graded credit hours taken (semesterly and cumulatively).

The numerical value of grades is as follows:

A	=	4.0	=	Highest Honors
B+	=	3.5	=	Honors
B	=	3.0	=	Superior
C+	=	2.5	=	Good
C	=	2.0	=	Competent
D+	=	1.5	=	Marginal
D	=	1.0	=	Poor
F	=	0.0	=	Failure
WF	=	0.0	=	Withdraw with Failure

Courses in which the recorded grade is a No Report (NR), Withdrawal (W), or Pass (S) shall not be included in the computation of grade averages.

WF is assigned for students withdrawing from a course after the penalty deadline prescribed in the *USC Master Schedule of Classes*. The grade of **WF** is treated as an **F** in the grade point average computation. [2019-2020 Academic Calendar](#)

Except with respect to transfer students as provided in §IV.K. only the grades received in courses taken at the University of South Carolina School of Law shall be included in the computation of grade averages for the purpose of these rules. Courses taken for Law School credit in other departments or schools of the University of South Carolina shall be recorded on a pass/fail basis by the Law School, with a grade of below C being recorded as a Failure. See also §§ IV.D, and IV.I.3. for pass/fail rules on courses taken at other Law Schools.

Except as provided under the Academic Forgiveness Program (See §VI.B.) when a course is repeated both grades shall be included in the computation of the cumulative overall grade average, and each grade shall be included in the appropriate semester grade average.