

## Academic Standing, College of Arts and Sciences

revised September 2015

As of the Fall 2013 semester, the graduation requirement for the Bachelor of Arts degree is a minimum of 32 full courses of which 30 must be *full academic courses*. A full academic course is one full course (4 credits) in an academic department, or two half courses (2 credits each) in one or more academic departments. Two of the required 32 courses may be fulfilled by a combination of co-curricular credits. Four co-curricular credits are equivalent to one full non-academic course. Co-curricular credits do not contribute to the academic course requirement.

Students are expected to progress toward graduation at a more or less constant rate. Given the requirement of 32 full courses, students should pass an average of four courses per semester to complete 32 courses in eight semesters.

There is a minimum level of accomplishment each semester to maintain good academic standing. Students in their first semester must pass at least three full academic courses or the equivalent; students in each subsequent semester must pass no fewer than three and one half full courses per semester of which three must be full academic courses or the equivalent. The remaining half course may be another academic course or the equivalent in co-curricular credits.

Any student approved by the Office of the Dean of Studies for part-time status will be expected to complete all courses he or she registers for in a given semester. Passing fewer than all courses will result in individualized review by the Academic Standing Committee with possible sanctions of probation, suspension, or dismissal, depending on the student's previous status and outcome of the review.

AP, IB, or other transfer courses earned prior to or after matriculation at Oberlin cannot be used to make up for a failed course for the purpose of academic standing.

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 1.67 to be in good academic standing. Students who at the beginning of a semester need fewer than 3.5 full courses to graduate are required to complete only the number of courses necessary for graduation. The Academic Standing Committee reviews the records of students whose achievement in a given semester falls below the established minimum; the chart below indicates the possible academic standing sanctions that serve as guidelines for the initial review of a student's record.

A student who has been suspended or dismissed has the option to appeal the decision of the Academic Standing Committee if he or she believes that there are extenuating circumstances that the Committee should consider. The decision of the Academic Standing Committee regarding the appeal is final. An approved medical leave of absence may supersede a suspension once. In that case, the student's returning academic standing status is probation, not suspension. A medical leave may not supersede a dismissal. If a student successfully appeals a suspension, the student's returning academic standing is probation, not suspension.

An academic suspension in the College of Arts and Sciences is for two semesters; a suspended student has the option of appealing to return after one semester. The Academic Standing Committee may expect the student to take approved academic courses at another accredited college or university in order to demonstrate readiness to return to Oberlin. A student who is suspended may not take or participate in any Oberlin College courses, live in campus housing, nor may the student participate in student organizations e.g., teach or take an ExCo course, or work on campus. Requests for exceptions must be approved by the Office of the Dean of Studies in consultation with the Dean of Students. Conditions to return from suspension will be clearly stated in a student's suspension letter and must be met or be in process before the student appeals to return.

For a student suspended during either of the first two semesters at Oberlin, the student may "walk" back on the Academic Standing chart. If the student subsequently completes two consecutive semesters in which the student passes 3.5 full courses, 3 of which must be academic courses, and has a cumulative GPA greater than or equal to 1.67, then the student will earn the right to be considered as having two previous probations rather than a suspension for future Academic Standing actions.

**For students in their first semester:**

student status	no action	warning	probation	suspension	dismissal
no previous action	if student passes 3 full academic courses & has cumulative GPA $\geq 1.67$	if student passes 2-2.5 full academic courses & has cumulative GPA $\geq 1.67$	if student a) has cumulative GPA $< 1.67$ or b) passes 1-1.5 full academic courses & has cumulative GPA $\geq 1.67$	if student passes a) fewer than one full academic course or b) 1-1.5 full academic courses & has cumulative GPA $< 1.67$	not applicable

**For students in the second semester of their first year; sophomores, juniors, seniors:**

student status	no action	warning	probation	suspension	dismissal
no previous action	if student passes 3.5 full courses* & has cumulative GPA $\geq 1.67$	if student passes 3 full academic courses & has cumulative GPA $\geq 1.67$	if student passes 2-2.5 full academic courses or has cumulative GPA $< 1.67$	if student passes fewer than 2 full academic courses	not applicable
previous warning	if student passes 3.5 full courses* & has cumulative GPA $\geq 1.67$	not applicable	if student passes 2-3 full academic courses or has cumulative GPA $< 1.67$	if student passes fewer than 2 full academic courses	not applicable
previous probation	if student passes 3.5 full courses* & has cumulative GPA $\geq 1.67$	not applicable	if student passes 3 full academic courses & has cumulative GPA $\geq 1.67$	if student passes fewer than 3 full academic courses or has cumulative GPA $< 1.67$	not applicable
two previous probations	if student passes 3.5 full courses* & has cumulative GPA $\geq 1.67$	not applicable	not applicable	if student passes fewer than 3.5 full courses* or has cumulative GPA $< 1.67$	not applicable
previous suspension	if student passes 3.5 full courses* & has cumulative GPA $\geq 1.67$	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	if student passes fewer than 3.5 full courses* or has cumulative GPA $< 1.67$
$\geq 24$ courses passed prior to current semester	if student passes either 3.5 full courses* <u>or</u> half of remaining courses needed to graduate, whichever is fewer, & has cumulative GPA $\geq 1.67$	†	†	†	† ‡

\* of the 3.5 full courses per semester needed to remain in good academic standing, the equivalent of 3 courses per semester must be academic courses not co-curricular credits

† if a student passes less than half of remaining courses needed to graduate or has cumulative GPA  $< 1.67$  the academic action will be determined on a case by case basis

‡ if a student in this category is dismissed and appeals the dismissal, the Academic Standing Committee may: grant the appeal, deny the appeal, or, one time, suspend the student for two semesters