Academic Standards

Policies and Procedures for students enrolled in the College of Pharmacy

These policies apply to students enrolled in the Doctor of Pharmacy Program beginning with the Fall 2012 semester. BSPS students and students enrolled in the pre-pharmacy program must abide by University-wide academic standards. Standards for graduate students are included in the Policies and Regulations Manual for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Staff.

I. RATIONALE

A. Students are selected for admission to the Pharm.D. program on the basis of (a) evidence of academic potential and readiness to handle the curriculum in a satisfactory manner and (b) evidence of motivation to pursue that goal. Once admitted, students who experience academic difficulties are encouraged to determine the nature and extent of the underlying problem(s) so that remedial steps can be taken as early as possible.

B. An academic progress review conducted at the end of each semester is intended to identify and assist students whose grade records reveal a pattern of academic difficulties. Directed counseling involving academic advisors and/or the Senior Associate Dean assures that these particular students take steps to evaluate their problems and formulate plans for remedial action. Students are encouraged to evaluate their academic progress, seek help for developing problems, enhance study skills, and develop self-discipline.

C. To facilitate student monitoring of academic progress and initiative in resolving an academic problem, it is important to define that level of performance which is acceptable and predictive of continued satisfactory progress in the College. The Academic Standards Policies described in this document identify a C grade in core courses as the minimal level of performance that the faculty deems necessary for continued satisfactory progress. In this context, a grade of D or F represents an unsatisfactory level of attainment of the course objectives. D grades, although passing, represent a clear warning that the student is responsible for remedying those deficiencies to avoid compounding the problem in subsequent professional courses that build upon that background.

D. Medical emergency, or death of an immediate family member clearly caused a precipitous drop in academic performance. In such cases, the student may petition the Academic Standards and Readmissions Committee for an expedited review of their academic standing and program continuation eligibility.

E. This document addresses academic standards and readmission policies for students enrolled in the first three years of didactic and laboratory courses in the professional program. Academic standards and readmission policies for students involved in experiential education course work are addressed in a separate document and are administered by the Experiential Learning Academic Standards Committee.

II. CORE COURSE GPA

A. To facilitate assessment of student progress in the College, GPA will be assessed for (a) the core courses and (b) overall (including core and non-core courses). These grade point averages will be calculated beginning with the grades earned in the first professional year for Doctor of Pharmacy students. GPA will be assessed and monitored for each semester and over the entire course of study in the Pharm.D. program (cumulative).

B. GPA will be computed following the usual University procedures with regard to grades for repeated courses and with regard to credits transferred from other institutions for core
course equivalents. The Office of the Registrar will provide the information needed to assist the Office of the Senior Associate Dean with GPA computations.

C. Performance in courses taken during a summer session does not affect GPA/academic standards in terms of grade calculations or probation status.

D. Successful completion (grade of C or better) of an approved alternative core course through another university results in removal of any previous grade for that course on the student’s College record and the student’s College grade index is recalculated at the end of the semester subsequent to completion of the alternative course.

III. PROBATION

A. Students whose semester core course GPA, cumulative core course GPA, or overall GPA falls below 2.0 at the end of any semester will be placed on academic probation by the College.

B. If a student receives one D or F grade in a core course, the student will be placed on probation by the College.

IV. DISMISSAL

A. Two consecutive semesters with either a semester or cumulative core course GPA below 2.0 will result in dismissal from the College.

B. A student who cumulatively receives: (a) two or more D or F grades in core courses, or (b) two or more D or F grades in non-core courses without replacing the D or F grades by retaking the courses will be dismissed by the College.

C. All students will be afforded one probationary semester.

Explanation:
- Students who receive one or more D or F grades will go on probation. Another D or F grade in a different course will result in dismissal – but all students are afforded one probationary period, so if a student receives two or more D or F grades in ONE semester, s/he will go on probation immediately at the end of that semester but is not dismissed. Another D or F grade in the next or any subsequent semester without replacement of the previous D or F grade(s) would result in dismissal.
- Consistent with university policies, a poor grade (D or F) can be replaced if the student re-enrolls in the course and earns a C or better. Although a D grade does not have to be repeated per university policies, students should be advised of the risk of “carrying” a D forward – because another D or F will result in dismissal. This brings the focus on achieving a minimum level of competence (C or better) in ALL core courses.
- The Ds/Fs that are counted apply to separate courses. As such, if a student receives an F and retakes the course and receives a D, this counts as only one D/F. This student is encouraged to re-take the course again, to reduce risk of dismissal if a D or F is earned in a different course.

D. A student who earns probation status a total of three times while enrolled in the professional program, regardless of whether D or F grades are replaced, will be dismissed from the College.

E. Students who either fail core courses or drop them because of poor academic performance (i.e., drop a course during the allowed withdrawal period with a WF grade) will be allowed only one additional enrollment for repeating the course (or its equivalent). Failure at the second attempt will result in dismissal from the College. Students dismissed for this reason and subsequently readmitted will be allowed to take the course only one more time.

F. Students dismissed at the end of either the fall or spring semester should contact their pharmacy academic advisor for assistance in the revision of their next semester’s schedule, as appropriate. Students who are dismissed may apply for readmission through the Pharmacy Readmissions Committee as outlined in Section V.

G. Students dismissed from the College in accordance with these Policies and who are not below the University's scholastic deficiency level may apply for transfer to another academic program. During the period of dismissal, students planning to apply for
readmission to the pharmacy program may take courses at Purdue or at another institution. Although dismissed students cannot normally take courses taught within the College of Pharmacy, they may take a course equivalent (approved by the established College procedure) in order to remedy academic deficiencies and acquire documentation for a readmission decision.

V. READMISSION

A. Students without a Bachelor’s degree, who are dropped from the Pharm.D. program, at any time, for academic under-performance, must complete a Bachelor’s of Science degree from an accredited US college or university before they may be considered for readmission. The degree must be in a STEM related field, and the overall GPA at time of graduation must be at least 3.0. The content and rigor of the course work must demonstrate that the student has resolved the issues that led to academic under-performance.

B. Students with a Bachelor’s degree, who are dropped from the Pharm.D. program, at any time, for academic under-performance, must complete 30 credit hours of high-level math/science related course work at an accredited US college or university, with a GPA of 3.20 or greater before they may be considered for readmission. The content and rigor of the course work must demonstrate that the student has resolved the issues that led to academic under-performance.

C. At least one year must elapse from the time of dismissal before the student is eligible to apply for readmission.

D. A letter of intent to apply for readmission must be sent to the Readmission Committee, Office of the Dean, by July 1st or December 1st of the semester prior to anticipated enrollment in the Pharm.D. program. Late applications will not be considered. The letter must outline the steps that have been taken by the student to fulfill the requirements for application for readmission. The Readmissions Committee will review the information provided by the student, and decide if readmission will be offered. The Readmissions Committee will consist of the Senior Associate Dean, and a total of 7 faculty with representation from each of the Departments of the College of Pharmacy. The primary academic advisor or his/her designee from the Office of Student Services for the student seeking readmission will be invited to serve as an ad hoc (non-voting) member of the committee.

E. Students who are dismissed from the College and are readmitted may have stipulations placed upon their readmission. These stipulations may include a requirement that a student repeat course(s) previously taken, regardless of the grades earned in the course(s). Students may be required to repeat an entire year or years of the professional program. Other stipulations may include, but are not limited to: regular follow-up with an advisor or faculty member; seeking out specific medical or psychological care; and participation in specified study or help groups.

F. Students who are readmitted to the College following dismissal in accordance with the Academic Standards Policies will be readmitted on probation, with the following understanding:

1. If a student is dropped from the Pharm.D. program a second time, they will not be allowed to apply for re-admission at Purdue University, College of Pharmacy.
2. A semester core course GPA below 2.0 in the first semester after readmission or receipt of any combination of two or more D or F grades in core courses in that semester will result in dismissal.
3. If a semester core course GPA of 2.0 or better is attained and fewer than two D or F grades are earned in the first semester after readmission, students will not be dismissed even if the cumulative core course GPA remains below 2.0. Students will have two semesters after readmission to bring the core course GPA to 2.0 or above. Thereafter, the basic policy of dismissal following two consecutive semesters with a cumulative or semester core course GPA below 2.0 or receipt of any combination of two or more D or F grades in core courses will apply.

VI. GRADUATION
A minimum cumulative core course GPA of 2.0 will be required of each student to be certified for graduation in the College.

VII. NOTIFICATION
   Students placed on probation or subject to dismissal in accordance with these policies will be notified promptly in writing from the Dean's Office with copies sent to the appropriate academic advisors and the University Dean of Students Office. These students are encouraged to utilize counseling services from the College and from the Office of the Dean of Students.

VIII. APPEALS
   In administering the Academic Standards Policies, student appeals relating to grades received in a core course will be handled in accordance with the University Grade Appeal System; student appeals relating to administration of the policies themselves will be referred to the Office of the Senior Associate Dean.

Approved by the faculty, Spring 2011. Readmission standards revised and approved by the faculty, Fall 2011. Revision approved by the faculty, Fall 2013.