

A student who receives a grade of “U” for two semesters may not take the course a third semester until he or she receives special academic advising. The student must appeal through the institutional appeal process before being allowed to enroll in the course for the fourth time. Credit hours are not averaged in the grade point average.

Note: Withdrawal from a class or removal from the registration database can affect eligibility for federal financial aid. The grade of “I” may affect eligibility for federal financial aid. For more information, a student may contact the Office of Student Financial Services.

STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

These standards of progress shall apply to all students unless otherwise noted.

Exceptions

Programs within the institution which are subject to external licensure, certification, and/or accreditation, or which are fewer than four semesters in length may have higher standards of progress than the institutional standards of progress.

Selected transfer students will be placed on academic probation upon admission and must transition to these standards of academic progress.

Special standards of academic progress have been established for students enrolled in institutional credit courses carrying optional grades and for students who wish to remain eligible to receive Title IV Financial Aid.

REQUIRED GPA LEVELS ACCORDING TO HOURS ATTEMPTED AT LAWSON STATE

The following applies to required GPA for attempted hours:

- Students who have attempted 12-21 semester credit hours at the institution must maintain a 1.5 cumulative grade point average.
- Students who have attempted 22-32 semester credit hours at the institution must maintain a 1.75 cumulative grade point average.
- Students who have attempted 33 or more semester credit hours at the institution must maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.

INTERVENTION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

When a student is placed on academic probation, one-term academic suspension, or one-calendar year academic suspension, college officials may provide intervention for the student by taking steps including, but not limited to, imposing maximum course loads,

requiring a study skills course, and/or prescribing other specific courses.

APPLICATION OF STANDARDS OF PROGRESS

- When the cumulative GPA is at or above the GPA required for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution, the student’s status is “Clear.”
- When a student’s cumulative GPA is below the GPA required for the number of credit hours attempted at the institution, the student is placed on academic probation.
- When the cumulative GPA of a student who is on academic probation remains below the GPA required for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution, but the semester GPA is 2.0 or above, the student remains on academic probation.
- When the cumulative GPA of a student who is on academic probation remains below the GPA required for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution and the semester GPA is below 2.0, the student is suspended for one semester. The transcript will read **suspended—one semester**.
- The student who is suspended for one semester may appeal. If, after appeal, the student is readmitted without serving the one semester suspension, the transcript will read **Suspended—One Semester/Readmitted Upon Appeal**.
- The student who is readmitted upon appeal re-enters the institution on academic probation.
- A student who is on academic probation, after being suspended for one semester, will remain on academic probation until the required GPA for the total number of hours attempted is sufficient.
- A student returning from a one semester suspension that has failed to obtain the required GPA for the number of hours attempted, and has failed to maintain a semester GPA of 2.0, will be placed on a one year suspension. **The student may appeal a one term or one-year suspension.**

The permanent student record will reflect the student’s status (except when the status is clear). When appropriate, the record will reflect **Academic Probation, Academic Suspension—One Term, Academic Probation—One Year, One Term Suspension—Readmitted On Appeal, Or One-Year Suspension—Readmitted On Appeal**.

If a student declares no contest of the facts leading to suspension, but wishes to request consideration for readmission, the student may submit a request in writing for an “appeal for readmission” to the Dean of Students within a designated published number of days of receipt

of the notice of suspension. During the meeting, which shall not be considered a “due process” hearing, but rather a petition for readmission, the student shall be given an opportunity to present a rationale and/or statement of mitigating circumstances in support of immediate readmission. The decision, together with the materials presented by the student, shall be placed in the Lawson State’s official records. Additionally a copy of the written decision shall be provided to the student. Equity, reasonableness, and consistency should be the standards by which such decisions are measured.

Definition of Terms: Standards of Progress

Grade Point Average (GPA)—The grade point average based on all hours attempted during any one term at the institution based on a 4.0 grading scale.

Cumulative Grade Point Average—The grade point average based on all hours attempted at the institution based on a 4.0 grading scale.

Clear Academic Status—The status of a student whose cumulative grade point average is at or above the level required by this policy for the number of credit hours attempted at the institution.

Academic Probation—The status of a student whose cumulative GPA falls below the level required by this policy for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution.

or

The status of a student who was on academic probation the previous term and whose cumulative GPA for that semester remained below the level required by the policy for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution, but whose semester GPA for that term was 2.0 or above.

One Semester Academic Suspension—The status of a student who was on academic probation the previous term but who has never been suspended, or since suspension, had achieved clear academic status. In addition, the cumulative GPA for that term was below the level required by the policy for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution and whose semester GPA for that term was below 2.0.

One Year Academic Suspension—The status of a student who was: (1) on academic probation the previous term; (2) was suspended without since having achieved clear academic status; (3) whose cumulative GPA that term remained below the level required by the policy, for the total number of credit hours attempted at the institution); and (4) whose semester GPA for that term was below 2.0.

Appeal of Suspension—The process by which an institution shall allow a student, suspended for one term or one year (whether a “native” student or a transfer student), to request readmission without having to serve the suspension.

ACADEMIC BANKRUPTCY

A student at Lawson State may declare academic bankruptcy **only once**. The student may request in writing, to the Records Office, declaration of academic bankruptcy under the following conditions:

- If fewer than three (3) calendar years have elapsed since the semester for which the student wishes to declare bankruptcy, the student may declare academic bankruptcy on all course work taken during that one semester. The student **MUST** have taken a minimum of 18 semester credit hours of work since the bankruptcy semester occurred. All course work taken, even hours completed satisfactorily during the semester for which academic bankruptcy is declared, will be disregarded in the cumulative GPA.
- If three (3) or more calendar years have elapsed since the most recent semester for which the student wishes to declare bankruptcy, the student may declare academic bankruptcy on all course work taken during 1-3 semesters. The student **MUST** have taken a minimum of 18 semester credit hours of course work at Lawson State since the bankruptcy occurred. All course work taken, even hours completed satisfactorily, during semester(s) for which academic bankruptcy is declared, will be disregarded in the cumulative grade point average.

When academic bankruptcy is declared, the term “**Academic Bankruptcy**” will be reflected on the transcript for each semester affected. When academic bankruptcy is declared, the transcript will reflect the semester of its implementation and the transcript will be stamped “**Academic Bankruptcy Implemented.**”

Implementation of academic bankruptcy at Lawson State Community College does **not** guarantee that other institutions will approve such action. The respective transfer institution will make this determination. (A detailed chart that helps students determine the benefits, circumstances, and consequences of academic bankruptcy is printed on the *Request for Academic Bankruptcy Form* available in the Records Office.

DISMISSAL FROM AN ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

If the department chairperson determines that a student is not a safe and dependable practitioner in the lab, shop, clinic, or field area (in the progress of a course), the student may be dismissed from the program with the concurrence of the Vice President or appropriate dean through the due process procedure.

Due to the fact that certain courses of many occupational programs are prescribed in a one or two-year sequential pattern and are offered only once during the sequence, a student has no opportunity to repeat one of these courses or to elect a substitution course. Therefore, a student who fails one of these courses will be dismissed from the program at the end of the semester in which the failure occurs.

Students dismissed from an occupational program under this policy may petition for enrollment in a later class. Re-enrollment may be based on availability of space.

Dismissal from a degree or certificate program does not cause dismissal from the college.

GROUND FOR STUDENT DISMISSAL

Academic standards and compliance with accreditation and legal requirements are maintained through regulations and policies related to student behavior, both in and out of the classroom (matriculation for scholarly pursuit and citizenship regulations). Noncompliance with college regulations and policies may constitute grounds for dismissal.

HONORS LIST

President's List

The President's List is a semester honor roll for students attaining a grade point average of 4.0 consisting of a minimum course load of not fewer than twelve semester hours of 100 level courses or above.

Dean's List

In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must take a minimum course load of not fewer than twelve semester hours of 100 level courses or above, and maintain at least a 3.50 grade point average.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION IN AA, AS, AOT, AND AAS DEGREE PROGRAMS

A student must:

1. Satisfactorily complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of college credit for AA or AS degrees and 60-76 semester hours of college credit for AOT and AAS degrees in an approved program of study, including prescribed general education courses.
2. Earn a 2.0 cumulative grade point average in all courses attempted at the College. All grades in repeated courses will be averaged into the grade point average; however, a course may be counted only once for the purposes of meeting graduation requirements unless specifically noted in the College Catalog that the course may be repeated for credit.
3. Complete at least 25% of the credit hours required for the degree at Lawson State Community College.
4. Meet all requirements for graduation within a calendar year from the last semester of attendance.
5. Successfully complete all courses that are a part of the student's major program of study or degree plan with a grade of "C" or higher.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION IN CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

A student must:

1. Satisfactorily complete an approved program of study.
2. Earn a 2.0 cumulative grade point average in all courses attempted at the College. All grades in repeated courses will be averaged into the grade point average; however, a course may be counted only once for the purposes of meeting graduation requirements unless specifically noted in the College Catalog that the course may be repeated for credit.
3. Complete at least 25% of the total semester credit hours required in the program at Lawson State Community College
4. Meet all requirements for graduation within a calendar year from the last semester of attendance.
5. Successfully complete all courses that are a part of the student's major program of study or degree plan with a grade of "C" or higher.