

Code: A-003  
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## SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

### POLICY

#### ACADEMIC STANDING

1. Grade Recording

All courses attempted at Southwest Minnesota State University and their grades shall be recorded on the student's official transcript. Transfer credits are recorded but are not used in calculating the cumulative grade point average.

2. Course Numbers and Classification

A. Developmental, Special and Service courses will carry course numbers of 001-099.

Developmental courses are designed to develop basic academic skills to the entry level expected for college performance. Special courses are courses that may not have been taken by a student at the high school level, but are necessary to complete a background for entering college level courses. These courses will carry numbers 001-049 and may not be counted toward graduation requirements. (001-049 courses are not calculated as part of any GPA. Taking such courses may also affect financial aid. Please consult the Financial Aids Office for a determination.) Service courses are designed to provide offerings that do not meet traditional academic standards or are designed to meet the needs of a specific clientele and carry course numbers 050-099. No more than six semester credits of 050-099 level courses may be counted toward graduation requirements.

B. Lower division courses carry numbers 100-299. Such courses are open to freshmen and sophomores and are primarily designed to provide much of that breadth of understanding known as general education, as well as the foundations for the more specialized work of the upper-division courses. These courses are open to upper-division students, but do not count as upper-division work in any curriculum.

C. Upper-division courses carry numbers 300-499. These courses are designed primarily for junior and senior level students.

D. Graduate level courses carry numbers 500-699. These courses are open to students who have completed baccalaureate degrees or have obtained permission to enroll through the Office of Academic Affairs.

3. Grade Point Average Calculation

A grade point average shall be calculated for all students and will be used to determine a student's academic standing. Grades of "I", "IP", "V", and "W" are not assigned a point value. **"IP"s, "V"s, and "W"s do not count in the total hours attempted, but "I"s do count in the total hours attempted.** If "I"s and "IP"s are subsequently converted to letter grades on the A-F grading system, the credit hours are to be reflected in the total hour calculations. The cumulative grade point average is to be maintained only for credits graded A-F in courses numbered 050 and above.

4. Quantitative values for A-F grades are:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Prior to Fall Quarter 1994</u>	<u>1994 to Now</u>
A+	4.0	4.00
A	4.0	4.00
A-	3.7	3.67
B+	3.3	3.33
B	3.0	3.00
B-	2.7	2.67
C+	2.3	2.33
C	2.0	2.00
C-	1.7	1.67
D+	1.3	1.33
D	1.0	1.00
D-	0.7	0.67
F	0.0	0.00

5. No point scale is applicable for the credit/no credit grades. They are not to be included in computing the grade point average.
6. The minimum acceptable cumulative grade point average (GPA) is 2.00. Students who have a cumulative GPA that falls below 2.00 will be placed on “Probation”. When a student’s cumulative GPA reaches 2.00 at the end of the next semester, the student will be removed from “probation”. **If a student’s CUMULATIVE GPA does NOT reach 2.00 at the end of the next semester one of the following will occur.**
- If the **semester GPA** was at or above 2.00, the student will remain on “Probation”.
  - If the **semester GPA** was below 2.00 and the total credits attempted at SMSU plus the total credits accepted in transfer to SMSU are less than 30, the student will remain on “Probation”.
  - If the **semester GPA** was below 2.00 and the total credits attempted at SMSU plus the total credits accepted in transfer to SMSU are 30 or more, the student will be “Suspended”.

**Note: Once the CUMULATIVE GPA reaches a 2.00, the student’s Probation/Suspended standing will be removed.**

7. **Suspended Students**  
Students who are suspended are not eligible to re-enroll for courses for the equivalent of one academic year. Students may appeal their “Suspended” status to the Academic Standing Committee for reinstatement.
8. **Suspended Students - Summer**  
Students who are suspended may enroll in summer sessions. Grades earned in summer sessions will be used in calculating the cumulative GPA. If a student’s cumulative GPA reaches 2.00 by grades earned in summer sessions, the “Suspended” standing will be removed, and the student will be considered to be in good academic standing, and may register in classes for the following fall semester.
9. Students who remain out of school for the equivalent of one academic year and return on probationary status must earn a **semester GPA** of at least 2.00 in order to be eligible to continue enrollment.