Policy:
Academic Action

University-wide Academic Action Policy

UWM is concerned about students whose academic achievements indicate that they are not meeting the expectations of their instructors, or who are experiencing other problems that may be interfering with their studies. The university-wide Academic Action Policy holds you, as an enrolled UWM student, to minimum standards of academic achievement. Individual schools and colleges may adopt stricter criteria, and you should consult the school/college advising offices for specific information. If your GPA falls below minimum university-wide standards for any grading period, or if your academic status cannot be determined due to outstanding incompletes or unreported grades, you may be subjected to academic action.

Formal academic actions that document unacceptable performance and are recorded on the unofficial transcript are: academic probation, final probation, dropped for one semester, and dropped for two years. An academic drop action is taken if your achievement record indicates a need to interrupt enrolled status and is recorded on your official transcript.

Academic Probation

Probation is a formal academic action that documents unacceptable performance on your unofficial transcript. If, at the end of any grading term, your cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, you will be placed on Academic Probation. In subsequent semesters, if your semester GPA is 2.0 or better, but your cumulative GPA remains below 2.0, you will be permitted to continue on academic probation.

Cleared Probation

The probation action will be removed from your official transcript following any semester in which your cumulative GPA increases to 2.0 or above.
Dropped for One Semester

Imposed on any student on academic probation who fails to earn a semester GPA of 2.000.

Final Probation

If you are academically dropped for any period and then permitted to enroll, you would return on final probation. In subsequent semesters, if your semester GPA is 2.0 or better, but your cumulative GPA remains below 2.0, you will be permitted to continue on final probation.

Dropped for Two Years

While on final probation, if you fail to earn a semester GPA of 2.0, you will be dropped for a period of two years.

Academic Drop

Academic drop is dismissal from the university for academic ineligibility. Academic drop status is initiated by administrative offices and you must apply for readmission before you will be allowed to resume work at UWM.

Reinstatement/Readmission

If you are dropped, you may be reinstated immediately after a drop action or readmitted after the specified drop period. If readmitted or reinstated, you’ll be placed on final probation. These actions (reinstatement or readmission) may only be taken by the dean of the school or college by which you were dropped. Even if you wish to change your field of study upon reentry to UWM, you must still obtain official permission to reenter from the academic dean of the school or college from which you were dropped.

To change your field of study if you were academically dropped from UWM:

- You must first obtain permission to reenter from the academic dean of the school or college from which you were dropped.
- Indicate your current desired field of study in the appropriate box on the application.
- If readmitted, you must contact the academic dean of the school or college you wish to transfer to and initiate the process of officially changing your classification.

Note: It may be beneficial to contact the school or college you wish to transfer to in order to discuss the possibility of changing your classification prior to reapplying for admission.
Get the Help You Need

Wondering where to turn if there is an academic action on your unofficial transcript? Here are some helpful suggestions to work your way back to good academic standing:

Meet with your academic adviser before classes start

If you are placed on probation, meet with your academic adviser as soon as possible -- to decide whether you need to make changes in your schedule for the upcoming semester.

- Should you repeat a course to replace a D or F? This is the fastest way to raise your cumulative GPA.
- Are you in the right major? If changing majors, should you drop and add courses? Should you get a new adviser?
- Are you enrolled for too many credits? Don't try to take 18 credits to "try to catch up" for losses in past semesters. To regain good standing, it works better to take fewer credits and earn higher grades.

Meet with your academic adviser in mid-semester

Stay in touch with your adviser throughout the semester. Ask for advice if you begin to struggle in any of your classes.

What else can you do?

Students who have been where you are before highly recommend that you start by talking to your professors. It sounds too easy to be true, but students say that if you ask your professors for tips on excelling in class, they are the best source of information!