

Community College *of* Philadelphia

AGENDA
Institution-Wide Committee
Monday, August 16, 2021
2:30 pm

ZOOM Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Sam Hirsch.

II. Attendance

Delegates

Federation: Karima Bouchenafa, Rainah Chambliss, Louise Jones, Sean Sauer (Co-Chair)

Administration: Carol de Fries, Dave Thomas, Sam Hirsch

Students: N/A

Alternates

Federation: Raquel Brickhouse, Stanley Walling, Jackie Bryant

Administration: Lisa Hutcherson (Voting), Leila Lawrence

Students: None

Guests

Victoria Zellers

III. Old Business – No items were discussed.

IV. New Business

a. Policy on Academic Standards and Progress

S. Hirsch led the discussion on the updates to the College's Policy on Academic Standards and Progress (P&P 8) that needed to be discussed and voted for recommendation to Dr. General's by the members of the IWC. Dr. Hirsch shared a red line version of the policy on the Zoom screen and went through in detail all the large and minor adjustments made to the policy.

He noted that the changes to the Academic Standards and Progress Policy require IWC voting approval so that it can be put in place for the upcoming semester, which also necessitated an August meeting of the IWC.

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S. Hirsch noted that the policy needed adjustment due to other changes required by the US Department of Education Financial Aid audit. Unlike the mandated changes in P&P 5 that the College was mandated to make, this policy required changes but the College had some level of discretion as to the changes we could make to the policy. At issue is the time by when students understand when they might be placed on warning as to their academic progress. The past policy was calculated after 12 credits, and required a 67% completion rate. The mandates require that students understand their status from their first credit.

S. Hirsch indicated that they consulted with several institutions and other consultants as to the type of system the College could put in place that could be the least harmful to our students. The revised policy provides a tiered approach to the completion percentages based on total credits earned with a 50% completion rate up to 12 credits; a 60% completion requirement for 13-18 credits; and a 67% completion standard for 19 credits and above.

Based on that consultation, they ran several data runs of the revised policy to assess the impact and ensure the policy minimizes the number of students that may be adjusted earlier into academic warning. These runs, last done at the end of July, reviewed 10,000 students, which included students up to 12 credits. It found that of those 10,000 students, 720 a .07% of total students evaluated, would fall into academic warning. However, only 180 students of that subtotal would fall into academic warning earlier than anticipated. While we need to work with these 180 students now that they will be moved into academic warning, this is a much lower number than anticipated. Had the College chosen to apply the 67% completion at credit 1, many more would be impacted.

The policy inserts sample calculations to show the impact of the tiered approach to better clarify and calculate their academic standing.

Questions raised:

K. Bouchenafa asked that the language of the final policy be adjusted to be gender neutral and not reflect "he/she." S. Hirsch indicated the final policy would remove these references and correct that language.

S. Sauer asked about the term "Quality Points" and S. Hirsch noted that each grade letter is assigned numeric points from which you calculate GPA. The USDOE refers to these as "Quality Points." (example: A = 4 quality points). S. Sauer also asked about the language crossed out regarding Withdrawals. S. Hirsch noted that this is a reference to the new P&P 5,

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which removed this sentence from P&P 5 and was mandated. It was tied to making it clear that the College is not a daily attendance taking institution. S. Hirsch noted that an FAQ is being developed that will go out with the new policy announcement to help faculty understand it.

S. Walling noted that he believes the changes are more beneficial to students and won't put as many into probation. I and MP grades are no longer calculated into GPA and therefore are no longer a negative impacting a student's GPA. He believes the overall effect will keep students in school.

C. de Fries asked about what communication will take place to those 180 students who we know will be moved into earlier warning and if they will get additional counseling and other services. S. Hirsch noted that the final numbers may be adjusted given that the numbers were last run in July. He also said of the 180, only 29 students are actively registered. All will be notified and provided counseling. In particular, he said that students who fall into warning early tend to not re-register. There is hope that this earlier warning system can help students better understand why they need to remain in good standing, but it also will help change the pattern of students who don't return if they do not do well up front. The rule will help students better understand their academic progress and it also provides an opportunity at New Student Orientation to emphasize that academic progress matters. It was also noted that Starfish can also be used to flag these issues.

S. Walling asked if P&P 5 is now eliminated. S. Hirsch noted this is its own Policy #8, and P&P 5 remains.

J. Bryant asked that if we are not officially a daily attendance institution, why do we have an FS grade? S. Hirsch noted that it is tied to the return to Title IV federal regulation; the College must return financial aid for a student who does not complete a semester. This grade was developed to distinguish between a student who earned an F, and a student who failed due to a lack of attendance and the date by which that happened.

C. de Fries made a motion for the IWC Committee to recommend the new policy to Dr. Generals as reviewed with the redline version and with the changes made as reviewed by S. Hirsch. The motion was seconded by R. Chambliss. No further discussion took place. The motion passed unanimously by all voting Federation and Administration members. There were no abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Policy on Academic Standards and Progress

Policy on Academic Standards and Progress

I. Grading Systems, Academic Standards, and Progress Policy

(Note: Students receiving financial aid are held to additional satisfactory academic progress regulations found in section VI.)

A. Grading System of Community College of Philadelphia

The grading system at Community College of Philadelphia is a letter system with associated quality points, which are used to compute cumulative grade point averages.

Grade	Q.P.*	Note
A	4	Outstanding
B	3	Good
C	2	Satisfactory
D	1	Pass
F	0	Fail
FS	0	Fail – stopped attending

*Number of quality points earned

Other Grades

As a result of testing and placement, students may be required to register for certain courses which do not carry credit towards graduation. These courses are numbered below 100. They are graded "Pass," "Making Progress" and "Fail."

Grade	Note
P	Pass

Grade	Note
MP	Making Progress
F	Fail
FS	Fail – stopped attending

Other Designations

Grade	Note
W	Withdrawal
M	Military Leave of Absence
AU	Audit
NR	No report from instructor at the time grades were processed
I	Incomplete

- B. **Grade Point Average (GPA) Policy:** Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average for all college-credited courses according to the following College schedule. GPA will be assessed after a student has attempted 1 college credit hours. (Note: Developmental courses will not count toward GPA calculation.)

Minimum Required Cumulative G.P.A	G.P.A Credit Hours Cumulative Attempted
1.40	1-17 credit hours
1.50	18-24 credit hours
1.60	25-36 credit hours
1.75	37-48 credit hours
1.85	49-59 credit hours
2.00	60 credit hours and over (until graduation)

- C. **Academic Progress Policy:** Students must maintain satisfactory progress for all courses. Satisfactory progress will be based on a cumulative successful completion of a minimum percentage of all credits attempted and will be assessed after a student has attempted 1 credit hours. The minimum

completion percentage is based on a tiered scale, according to the number of cumulative credit hours attempted.

For the purposes of calculating satisfactory progress, withdrawals made within the refund period will not count toward the calculation of progress when the student has not begun attendance in the course.

A grade of "A," "B," "C," "D," "P" or "MP" will be considered a successful completion. However, a grade of "MP" cannot be given in the same course more than two times. On the third attempt, a grade of "MP" will be converted to a grade "F".

Minimum Required Completion Percentage	G.PA Credit Hours Cumulative Attempted
50%	1-12 credit hours
60%	13-18 credit hours
67%	19 credit hours and over (until graduation)

- D. Academic Probation Policy:** Students who do not maintain satisfactory course completion and/or GPA will:
- A. Be put on full-time (13 credits maximum) academic probation. Students on academic probation of any kind must meet with a counselor before registering for any term.
 - B. At the end of any full-time academic probation term, a student will be evaluated as follows:
 - a. If the student has met the minimum cumulative completion rate and the GPA requirements, he/she will be removed from academic probation.
 - b. If the student is either below the minimum cumulative completion rate or the GPA standard, he/she will continue on full-time academic probation. When the student achieves the minimum cumulative completion rate and GPA requirements, he/she will be removed from academic probation. Students may not register until they have met with a counselor.
 - c. If the student fails to earn a grade of "A," "B," "C," "P" or "MP" in the credits attempted for the term, he/she will be placed on part-time (7 credits maximum) academic probation. Students on part-time academic probation during any summer term will be limited to 3 credits or 6 credits for offerings spanning 14 weeks. Students may not register until they have met with a

counselor. Students wishing to appeal their part-time academic probation status may do so through the Counseling Center.

- C. At the end of the first part-time academic probation term, a student will be evaluated as follows:
 - a. If the student has met the minimum cumulative completion rate and the GPA requirements (according to the College's tiered schedules), he/she will be removed from academic probation.
 - b. If the student is either below the minimum cumulative completion rate or the GPA standard but has earned grades of "A," "B," "C," "P" or "MP" in all credits attempted for that term, he/she will be permitted to continue on part-time (7 credits) academic probation until such time that the student achieves the minimum cumulative completion rate and GPA requirements (according to the College's tiered schedules), and is removed from academic probation. Students may not register until they have met with a counselor
 - c. If the student fails to earn a grade of "A," "B," "C," "P" or "MP" in all credits attempted for the term, he/she will be dropped from the College for poor scholarship and/or insufficient progress.
- D. After a student is dropped for poor scholarship and/or insufficient progress for the first time, he/she will be required to sit out for one term, with summer counting as one term, before applying for reinstatement. Students wishing to appeal the requirement to sit out for one term may do so through the Counseling Center.
- E. After a student has sat out the minimum of one term, he/she may return to the college on part-time (7 credits) academic probation but cannot be registered until he/she has met with a counselor. Students who return to the College after being dropped will be assessed at the end of each term in accordance with the part-time academic probation sequence described above.
- F. Students who are dropped for either insufficient progress or poor scholarship two or more times must complete an Application for Reinstatement. Students are not officially reinstated until they are notified in writing of their status. All students who are reinstated based on appeals must see a counselor to register for courses and will be placed on part-time (7 credits) academic probation. Academic performance will be assessed at the end of each term in accordance with the part-time academic probation sequence described above.

The chart below shows sample calculations of necessary course completion rates based on the minimum cumulative completion rate and minimum GPA requirements.

Attempted Credits	Minimum GPA	Calculation Applied	Required Completion Rate
6	1.40	6 x 50% =	3 credits completed
12	1.40	12 x 50% =	6 credits completed
18	1.50	18 x 60% =	11 credits completed
25	1.60	25 x 67% =	17 credits completed
37	1.75	37 x 67% =	25 credits completed
49	1.85	49 x 67% =	33 credits completed
60	2.00	60 x 67% =	40 credits completed
72	2.00	72 x 67% =	48 credits completed
84	2.00	84 x 67% =	56 credits completed
90	2.00	90 x 67% =	60 credits completed

II. Policy on Repeated Courses

- A. Students may repeat courses to improve an initial grade of "B," "C," "D," "W," "F" or "FS."

The following conditions apply:

 - When a course is repeated the highest grade will be included in the GPA calculations, although all prior grades will appear on the academic transcript.
- B. A grade of "MP" will not be given for a third time in the same course. The "MP" grade may be awarded no more than twice. Any "MP" for a third subsequent attempt will be converted to an "F."
- C. Credit for a course is given only once. Each attempted grade will appear on a transcript. Note: Some colleges to which students may wish to transfer do not accept this method of calculating grade point averages.

III. Incomplete Work

- A. The letter "I" on a student's grade report or transcript indicates that a student has not completed all the requirements for a grade in a course.
- B. The instructor will inform the student of the work to be completed and the date that it is due. Notification of the incomplete grade will be forwarded to the department head through the use of the incomplete grade form.

- C. An incomplete grade becomes a failing grade (“F”) if the work is not completed within six weeks from the end of the final exam period in which the “I” grade was assigned.
- D. An “I” will not be counted in the student’s grade point average and academic progress in determining academic standing.
- E. Since only completed work can be counted as making progress toward the degree, students must be aware that an incomplete grade may have implications for qualifying for financial aid as well as Satisfactory Academic Progress. In addition, incomplete grades will not satisfy requirements for prerequisites.

IV. Withdrawals from Courses

- A. Students may withdraw from a course(s) but must do so by the published deadline for each term. After this date, students will be assigned the grades they have earned. Students who withdraw after the refund period and before the deadline date for any term will earn a grade of “W” on their transcript. Note that excessive withdrawals will affect academic progress
- B. Students may drop a class via [MyCCP](#) or by completing the necessary form, available from the Office of Student Records and Registration, and submitting the form to this same office. Students are strongly encouraged to consult a counselor, if on academic probation, or an academic advisor prior to dropping courses.
- C. Students completely withdrawing from a term must complete the necessary form, available from the Office of Student Records and Registration, and submit the form to this same office. Students must consult a counselor prior to withdrawing from an entire roster of classes for any term.
- ~~D.~~ The date when the Office of Student Records and Registration is in receipt of the appropriate drop or withdrawal form is the official date of withdrawal. A student who cannot appear in person to fill out a withdrawal form must send a letter or e-mail stating the date and reason for the withdrawal. Absence from class or merely notifying the professor does not constitute withdrawal. ~~An instructor may initiate a withdrawal (according to Policies and Procedures No. 5). (Note: Students should not assume that an instructor will initiate such withdrawals.)~~
- E. Students who are unable to complete a course(s) because of serious illness or other emergency may apply for an excused withdrawal within two years of the occurrence to the Office of Student Records and Registration. [Excused withdrawals](#) are not counted in determining academic progress; however, excused withdrawals are counted as an attempt but not earned when evaluating Satisfactory Academic Progress for purposes of awarding financial aid. Students receiving an Excused withdrawal are subject to a Return of Title IV funds calculation for any aid that was received for the term in question. Satisfactory documentation of the illness or emergency will be required.
- F. Students who are unable to complete a course because they or their spouse are a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or other reserve component of the armed forces of the United States and are called or ordered to active duty (other than active duty for training) shall receive an “M” for military leave of absence. Courses earning an M shall not be counted in determining academic progress.

- G. Students who stop attending class or, in the case of online courses, stop participating (failure to submit or participate in coursework) will receive a grade of FS, failure –stopped attending. Instructors who issue an FS grade must also report the student’s last date of attendance or, in the case of an online course, last date of participation.

V. Reinstatement

Students applying for reinstatement to the College must submit an “Application for Reinstatement Form” which may be obtained in the Educational Support Services Office or at the Counseling Center. Once completed, forms can be dropped off at the Educational Support Services Office. Forms must be submitted no later than the deadline dates stated in the calendar in the College catalog. Applications received after the deadline dates will be rolled over and considered for the following academic term. Once a decision has been made about reinstatement, students will be notified in writing.