

## **XVII. ACADEMIC STANDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **A. Minimum Grade Point Averages Required for Graduation**

In order to graduate from the College of Law, a student must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 in all courses (Required, Core, and Elective) and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 in Required and Core courses.

Students who do not make satisfactory progress toward achieving those minimum GPA requirements are subject to academic actions including Academic Warning or Dismissal.

### **B. Academic Warning**

Academic Warning is notice to the student that a GPA deficiency must be corrected and raised to at least a 2.00 by the end of the immediately subsequent regular semester (summer terms are excluded). A student who is on Academic Warning has a probationary status under which he or she must meet both GPA requirements in all subsequent semesters and/or must meet the terms of his or her reinstatement. Failure to do so will result in dismissal.

### **C. Dismissal**

Academic Dismissal ends the student's relationship with the law school; the student may no longer continue law study.

### **D. First-Year Students: Grade Point Average Requirements**

Students in their first year of academic study are subject to the following GPA requirements.

#### **1. First-Year Students in Full-Time Division**

A first-year student enrolled in the full-time division whose GPA at the end of the fall semester of the first academic year is lower than 2.00 but at least 1.60 will be placed on academic warning.

A first-year student enrolled in the full-time division whose cumulative GPA at the end of the fall semester of the first academic year is lower than 1.60 will be dismissed.

#### **2. First-Year Students in the Part-Time Division**

A first-year student enrolled in the part-time division whose cumulative GPA at the end of spring semester of the first academic year is lower than 2.00 but at least 1.60 will be placed on Academic Warning.

A first-year student enrolled in the part-time division whose cumulative GPA at the end of spring semester of the first academic year is lower than 1.60 will be dismissed.

### **E. Upper-Level Students: Two Minimum Grade Point Average Requirements / Warnings and Dismissals**

Once a student in any division has been tracked along either the Open Curriculum or the Structured Curriculum, the student must thereafter maintain in every semester a cumulative GPA of 2.00 in all courses (Required, Core, and Elective) and a cumulative GPA of 2.00 in Required and Core courses.

An upper-level student who fails to maintain either of the required GPAs in any semester will receive an Academic Warning.

A student in any division who has received an Academic Warning who does not raise the deficient GPA to a 2.00 by the end of the immediately subsequent regular semester will be dismissed.

### **F. Extraordinary Relief from Dismissal: Immediate Reinstatement and Expedited Reapplication**

The Academic Standing Committee does not dismiss students; its authority is limited to hearing petitions from students who have already been dismissed because they have failed to meet GPA requirements.

The Academic Standing Committee consists of three faculty members. In addition, the Associate Dean for Academics is an ex officio member.

The Academic Standing Committee hears and decides all petitions seeking either Immediate Reinstatement and/or Expedited Reapplication.

A student who has been dismissed from the College of Law because of an academic deficiency may submit a Petition for Extraordinary Relief to the Academic Standing Committee. Such petitions must follow the process described below.

There are two forms of Extraordinary Relief: *Immediate Reinstatement* and *Expedited Reapplication*.

#### **1. Immediate Reinstatement:**

Immediate Reinstatement allows the student to continue his or her law study without interruption. The student resumes study with the same GPA and credit hours toward graduation that existed at the time of dismissal. If a student is granted Immediate Reinstatement, the student must meet all of the GPA and other requirements of the College of Law by the end of the semester in which the student is to be reinstated.

A student should consult with the Associate Dean for Academics or with the Registrar to determine whether it is numerically possible to correct the GPA deficiency within that semester. If that is not realistic, the student should consider petitioning for Expedited Reapplication.

A student petitioning for Immediate Reinstatement should continue to attend classes until the student receives notice of the Committee's decision as to the petition. If the student is not successful, tuition will be refunded.

## **2. Expedited Reapplication:**

Expedited Reapplication permits the student to reapply to the College of Law Admissions Committee immediately after dismissal, instead of waiting the two years generally required by the Chase Readmission Policies and Procedures.

A favorable decision by the Academic Standing Committee does not guarantee readmission, but only allows the previously disqualified student to seek admission through the normal admission process.

If the student is subsequently readmitted by the Admissions Committee, the student will receive no credit for any course taken prior to the granting of the petition. The student will be subject to all the academic policies and rules which will apply to the entering class with which the student begins law study anew.

University policy requires that the student's grades prior to readmission must remain on the student's transcript, which will also contain a notation that readmission was granted. The student's new grades will appear on the same transcript.

For every readmission of a dismissed student, a statement of the considerations that led to the decision shall be placed in the student's file.

A student petitioning for Expedited Reapplication should not continue to attend classes pending the Academic Standing Committee's decision on the petition. Tuition that has already been paid will be refunded.

## **3. Standards for Extraordinary Relief**

A petitioning student is not entitled to any relief from the Academic Standing Committee. Either Immediate Reinstatement or Expedited Reapplication is available only where the student demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence both that:

Extraordinary Circumstances led to the unsatisfactory GPA which resulted in the dismissal ("Extraordinary Circumstances" do not include circumstances that were avoidable by timely action on the part of the student. The following list (though not exhaustive) provides examples of circumstances that do not qualify as Extraordinary Circumstances: failure to study, failure to attend classes, failure to take school seriously, failure to avail oneself of academic support, and failure to understand the material.); and

Those circumstances have changed sufficiently, or will change sufficiently by the time the student resumes study at the College of Law, such that the student will likely satisfy the criterion below with respect to the form of relief sought.

For a student seeking Immediate Reinstatement, the Committee will grant a student's petition only if the Committee decides that the student has a realistic likelihood of raising the student's cumulative GPA, as well as the student's Core and Required GPA, to 2.00 at the end of the semester in which the student is to be reinstated.

For a student seeking Expedited Reapplication, the Committee will grant a student's petition only if the Committee decides that the student will possess the requisite ability to complete the course of study at the College of Law. The student's prior dismissal is an important criterion, but not the sole criterion, to consider in reaching a decision on this issue.

## **G. Petition Procedures**

### **1. Petition**

A student who has been dismissed from the College of Law because of an academic deficiency may submit a Petition for Extraordinary Relief. Students who intend to prepare a Petition are encouraged to consult with the Associate Dean for Student Services before doing so.

The petition for relief must be in writing and received by the Chase College of Law Registrar within seven calendar days after the date of the dismissal letter. The petition must be signed and include any supporting documentation.

The petition must specify the relief requested by the student. The student's petition may request the following forms of relief:

Immediate Reinstatement only

Expedited Reapplication only

Immediate Reinstatement or, in the alternative, Expedited Reapplication

The petition for relief must set forth the specific facts that the student contends warrant relief pursuant to the standard of review described above.

The petitioner may request an oral hearing before the Academic Standing Committee.

### **2. Hearing**

A student who requests a hearing will be informed of:

The time and date for meeting with the committee for a fifteen (15) minute oral hearing;

The student's right to be accompanied at such a hearing by an advisor of his/her choice, without cost to the University; and

The student's right to file with the Dean of the College of Law a written motion to strike a member of the Academic Standing Committee containing specific reasons. If the Dean grants that motion, the Dean will appoint one of the alternate members of the committee to hear the petition.

At the hearing, the student should be prepared to inform the Committee of any additional relevant information and/or clarify his/her petition.

The Academic Standing Committee will conduct a hearing, normally within seven (7) days of receipt of the student's timely-filed written petition.

### **3. Decision**

In making its decision, the Academic Standing Committee will review the written petition and the oral statements made at the hearing in order to determine whether the student meets the standards set out in this policy.

Normally, the student will receive written notice of the Committee decision from the Chair within seven (7) days of the hearing.

## **H. Limitation on Procedure and Remedies**

A student who has been granted Immediate Reinstatement may not petition the Academic Standing Committee for any additional Extraordinary Relief, or for any subsequent modification of the original terms of the relief already granted, during his/her law school career.

All decisions by the Academic Standing Committee are final. Any communication from a student or from persons other than members of the law school faculty and administration regarding a student's case, outside the context of the petition and hearing process outlined above, shall be directed to the Associate Dean for Academics.