Academic Recovery Program

Rationale:
Concern about student retention at K-State has initiated discussion among academic staff, student life staff, advisors, and others. We believe that we need to reconsider the university policy mandating dismissal for a first semester student who earns below a 1.0 GPA. In the College of Arts and Sciences alone, 175 first-semester students were dismissed in the Fall of 2008. Many students who earn below a 1.0 their first semester, including first-semester transfer students, are impacted by transition issues, lack of maturity and a deficit in study skills. They don’t connect with support services during the semester or do so too late to make a difference. These students could benefit from a program that would provide an intervention to help them acquire the college skills to succeed and allow them an additional semester to put these skills to good use.

Among the reasons this policy was initially passed in the Fall of 1993 was a concern for students who were not going to graduate incurring unnecessary debt. However, our plan requires that in order to continue the following semester, students must enroll in a program that will give them the tools they need to succeed. It is interesting to note that no other state university in Kansas has a first-semester dismissal policy. It also seems more uniformly fair to provide all students with a second chance, not only those who make it past the first semester.

For those students who want to continue their education at K-State the next semester, we recommend the following program.

Academic Recovery Program:

First semester K-State students who earn below a 1.0 would be required to enroll in an Academic Recovery Program in order to continue the following semester. This program’s primary component would be a mandatory eight-week class entitled Academic Assessment that would focus on college skills and personal/academic goal setting. In addition, we propose continuing interventions during the semester which could include mandated meetings with advisors/mentor, on-line chat room with support from Academic Enhancement instructor, modules at the Academic and Career Information Center, tutors for each class they are taking, and other supportive activities.

Students who earned less than a 1.0 GPA would be put on Academic Warning, the same as all students in that situation. However, they would receive the following letter from their deans’ office.

APPENDIX

9 and 17 February 2009
DRAFT
Dear Student:

Because you earned less than a 2.0 GPA this semester, you are on Academic Warning, which can lead to dismissal in future semesters. In addition, because you earned less than a 1.0 GPA during your first semester, in order to continue next semester you will need to enroll in the **Academic Recovery Program**, described below. This program is designed to help ensure that you are successful in your second and subsequent semesters. If you choose not to enter this program, you must wait at least one semester before returning to K-State.

The Academic Recovery Program requires students to complete the following checklist. The first part must be completed prior to the first day of classes and the checklist approved in the deans’ office. The second part must be completed by the end of the second week of classes and the checklist approved in the deans’ office. If for any reason the entire checklist is not completed by the end of the second week of classes, students will be administratively dropped from their classes and issued a refund.

**ACADEMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM CHECKLIST**

**PART ONE: due before first day of classes**

1. Enroll in EDCEP [502], Academic Enhancement, an 8-week, 1-hour course.

2. Meet with your academic advisor to make adjustments to class schedule and discuss issues relating to your previous semester.

3. Write a letter to your academic dean explaining the causes of the previous semester’s problems and your plans for change. Please include answers to the questions on the back of this page. Submit letter with this checklist.

**PART TWO: due within first two weeks of classes**

4. Meet with staff from the Academic Assistance Center, 101 Holton Hall, to plan tutoring help for the semester.

5. Meet with your financial aid advisor to discuss financial issues, 104 Fairchild Hall.

6. Follow any additional instructions your deans’ office requires.

Include detailed answers to the following questions in the letter to your dean:

1. Do you think you were prepared for college work following graduation from high school? Explain.
2. Describe in detail the academic reasons for your academic performance. Did you seek assistance? Why was it ineffective? Were certain courses particularly difficult for you?

3. Were there non-academic reasons for your poor performance? (Illness, personal or family problems that affected your grades)

4. What are your plans for the future?

   a. Detail your courses for at least two semesters in the future. How do they fulfill major or basic requirements?

   b. What changes will you make in your personal life that will assure your academic success? Do you need assistance in study skills, reading and writing development?

   c. Do you need to work? How will you assure that your work schedule will not conflict with your classes and studies?

Please answer the above questions on a separate sheet of paper and return to your deans’ office with your Academic Recovery Program Checklist.

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This policy and program information will be placed on the Advising website and sent to all Deans, Department Heads, Faculty, Advisors, and Staff. The statements in the Undergraduate Catalog under “Scholastic Deficiencies” and “Students who earn less than a 1.0 GPA in a given semester” would change from:

Students who earn less than a 1.0 GPA in any semester are considered to have neglected their academic responsibilities. The following policy applies:

1. Any student (freshman or transfer) who earns less than a 1.0 semester GPA in his or her first semester at K-State will be dismissed.
2. Any continuing student enrolled at K-State not dismissed by university academic standards policies but who earns less than a 1.0 semester GPA will have registration for the next semester withheld subject to review by the academic dean or the dean’s representative(s).

To:

Students who earn less than a 1.0 GPA in any semester are considered to have neglected their academic responsibilities. The following policy applies:

1. Any student (freshman or transfer) who earns less than a 1.0 semester GPA in his or her first semester at K-State will be placed on academic warning and have registration for the next semester withheld subject to completion of the Academic Recovery Program Checklist.
2. Any continuing student enrolled at K-State not dismissed by university academic standards policies but who earns less than a 1.0 semester GPA will have registration for the next semester withheld subject to review by the academic dean or the dean’s representative(s).