



## **Satisfactory Academic Progress and Good Academic Standing Policy**

Rhombus University is responsible for measuring and enforcing satisfactory academic progress to ensure student progress towards graduation. To be eligible for ongoing enrollment, a student must be in good academic standing and must be making satisfactory progress towards the completion of a degree within a maximum timeframe. All enrolled students are evaluated after each semester to ensure that the minimum requirements are being met. Students who do not meet the minimum requirement will face expulsion from the program.

### Maximum Time to Complete a Degree

Rhombus students are required to complete all degree requirements within a percentage of the minimum credits required to degree completion. The maximum time-frame allowance is 150% of the published program length of the student's currently enrolled program of study. If a graduate degree requires completion of 36 credit hours, the reasonable length of time will be 36 hours X 150% = 54. The student would be within their reasonable length of time during their first 54 hours of attempted course work but not beyond that. Students who exceed their maximum allowable time to completion face expulsion from the program.

### Quantitative Standard: Academic Completion Rate

Students are required to maintain a minimum quantitative Completion Rate, based on their degree program to remain eligible for ongoing enrollment. The Completion Rate is calculated by dividing a student's total earned credit hours by the student's total attempted credit hours. An attempted credit hour is defined as any credit hour the student remains enrolled in after the Census Date, including units that the student withdraws from. All students must successfully complete at least 67% of all credits attempted. Course grades of I, F, UF, PR and W represent credits attempted, but do not count towards the measure of credits satisfactorily completed.

Example A: If a student attempted 32 credits and successfully completed 26 of those credits (dropped 3 credits and failed 3 credits) the completion rate will be 26 credits earned divided by 32 attempted credits = 81.2% completion rate, therefore meeting the measurable progress component of this requirement.

Example B: If a student attempted 32 credits and successfully completed 20 of those credits, and dropped, failed, had an incomplete in, or withdrew from the other 12 credits, the completion rate would be 20 divided by 32 = 62.5% completion rate, and therefore

does not meet the completion rate requirement and would not be eligible for ongoing enrollment or financial aid assistance.

### Qualitative Standard: Academic Standing

Students are required to maintain a fixed qualitative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 to remain eligible for both ongoing enrollment and Financial Aid. University policy requires that students maintain a cumulative 3.00 GPA throughout all course work.

### Repeated Courses

Repeated courses will be counted as credit hours attempted but not earned when calculating the percentage of courses completed.

Repeated courses will affect the qualitative, quantitative, and time-frame measurements used to determine ongoing enrollment status.

### Appeals

Students who are dismissed from the program for failure to meet any of the requirements above may present an Extenuating Circumstances appeal to the Office of the Dean within one (1) week of notification. Appeals must be based on Extenuating Circumstances that seriously affected the student's academic performance.

Examples of Extenuating Circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- Death in the family.
- Disabling illness or injury to the student or immediate family member (that required the student's care).
- Emotional or mental health issue of the student that required professional care.
- Other extenuating circumstances that were beyond the student's control

Examples of supporting documentation includes, but is not limited to:

- Obituary/Death Certificate
- Documentation from the student's (or family member's) medical provider
- Statement from a third-party that is familiar with the circumstances (preferably in a professional capacity)

Appeals will not be accepted for any of the following reasons:

- Lack of knowledge/understanding of the SAP Policy at Rhombus
- Medical appeals for illness/injury/hospitalization that do not coincide with the semester(s) of sub-standard progress
- Work/Scheduling conflicts (including voluntary overtime)
- Acclimation issues with regard to being in a university setting
- Student has submitted a previous Extenuating Circumstances appeal, regardless of reason, and the student is still not meeting academic progress or good standing requirements

- Student is repeating courses to increase the student's GPA or the student is taking courses for degree requirements outside the student's current program
- Student is taking pre-requisite(s) for a degree program in which the student is not currently enrolled

The Dean will convene an Appeals Committee of two (2) faculty members who will thoroughly review each appeal. If the Appeals Committee needs clarification or additional information, the Dean will contact the student directly. Any requested documentation is to be submitted as soon as possible. Appeal decisions are final and will be emailed to the student within two (2) weeks of submission. Students are encouraged to submit their appeals and documentation as early as possible to avoid any further interruption of their studies.

A student who is readmitted on appeal will be placed upon Probation under an Academic Plan which will require monthly monitoring of their ongoing progress by their Academic Advisor. The Academic Plan will consider the student's GPA, faculty or clinical supervisor evaluations, rubrics demonstrating mastery of course competencies, etc., and quantitative measures such as maximum time frame, rate of progress, and/or time remaining to complete the program (see above).

If a student fails to abide by the terms of their Probation and Academic Plan, that student will be permanently dismissed from the program by the Academic Dean.