

AR 4255 ACADEMIC PAUSE AND REINSTATEMENT

Santa Monica College recognizes that student success is a shared responsibility between the District and the student. The College provides a broad range of academic courses, student support services, counseling and academic programs to help students achieve their goals. The College shall ensure that students have equitable access to counseling and other student support services. The District shall include provisions for proactive interventions, including intrusive counseling and GPS (Gateway to Persistence and Success), in cases of multiple withdrawals.

1. Standards for Academic Pause for Credit Courses

- a. A student who is on academic notice is subject to academic pause when the student has earned a SMC cumulative grade point average (GPA) below a 2.0, in all units attempted in each of three (3) consecutive semesters, so long as the break in the student's enrollment does not exceed one semester (fall/spring).
However, a student who earns a semester grade point average of 2.0 or higher at the end of the third consecutive semester will not be subject to academic pause. If in the subsequent semester, the semester GPA and the cumulative GPA is below a 2.0, the student will be on academic pause.
- b. A student who is on academic notice is subject to academic pause when the student receives notations of "W" (Withdrawal), "I" (Incomplete), or "NP" (No Pass) in 50% or more of all units enrolled in each of three (3) consecutive semesters, so long as the break in the student's enrollment does not exceed one semester (fall/spring).
However, a student who completes less than 50% of the units enrolled with notations of "W", "I" or "NP" at the end of the third consecutive semester will not be on academic pause. If in the subsequent semester, the student completes more than 50% of the units enrolled with notations of "W", "I" or "NP" and the cumulative units enrolled with notations of "W", "I" or "NP" is 50% or above, the student will be subject to academic pause.

Military withdrawals (MW) and Excused withdrawals (EW) shall not be included in academic standard calculations.

Semesters shall be considered consecutive on the basis of student's credit course enrollment, so long as the break in student's enrollment does not exceed one semester.

Counselors have the discretion to determine if an exception is warranted to unit limitations.

2. Notification of Academic Pause

The notification will cover an explanation of what academic pause means and its impact, and the procedure for reinstatement while also providing counseling and other support services.

3. Petition for Reinstatement

A student subject to academic pause may complete a "Petition for Reinstatement" which will include their current academic goal, the circumstances that led to their academic pause and their success plan. A counselor will review the petition, determine if the student will be reinstated and confirm unit limitations. If reinstated, the counselor will identify support services or counseling programs, recommend courses, and create either an abbreviated or

comprehensive educational plan that reflects the student's current academic goal per Title 5 §55520 Required Services and §55524 Student Education Plan.

Reinstated students are limited to three (3) units in the winter/summer session and six (6) units in the fall/spring semester, unless the counselor determines an exception is warranted. A student who sits out for two consecutive semesters (fall/spring) or longer breaks consecutive enrollment for standards of dismissal. The student will need to complete the SMC online application and a "petition for reinstatement".

After the second or subsequent consecutive academic pause, students are required to meet with a counselor to determine reinstatement and may be required to sit out for one semester or longer unless an appeal is granted (per appeal process below).

4. Academic Pause(s) from Another College

Students on academic pause from other institution(s) will be required to complete the "Petition for Reinstatement" and are encouraged to submit an unofficial copy of their transcript(s). In some cases, unofficial transcripts may not be available to students.

Reinstated students are limited to three (3) units in the winter/summer session and six (6) units in the fall/spring semester, unless the counselor determines an exception is warranted.

5. Appeal Process

A student has the right to appeal the denial of a reinstatement or the unit limitations by submitting a counseling "Special Consideration Request". The appeal response will be communicated to the student within 5-10 business days.

6. Removal from Academic Pause

Students who have met SMC Academic Standards f per AR 4250 Academic Notice at the end of fall/spring semester will be notified by email. No notation will be made on the academic transcript.

7. Transcript Notations

Notations are limited to Academic Notice , Academic Pause and are only annotated at the end of fall/spring semester.

8. Academic Notice, Academic Pause, Readmission Data Reporting

The Vice President of Student Services shall provide to the Board of Trustees an annual report of the number of students who were placed on academic notice, academic pause, and reinstatement. This report must disaggregate the students by race/ethnicity, gender, age, or any other characteristic identified by the Board of Trustees. The annual report shall include a specific action plan that connects students to appropriate support services and interventions to improve success rates for students. The report should be developed in concert with the Institutional Research Office and counseling department.

Also see BP/AR 4250 Academic Notice, BP/AR 5500 Standards of Student Conduct, AR 5520 Student Discipline Procedures, and AR 5530 Student Rights and Grievances

References:

Title 5 Sections 55031-55034, 55520 and 55524
Education Code 70902

Approved: October 17, 2003

Revised: April 10, 2010; November 20, 2012; May 3, 2013; April 27, 2016; April 19, 2023