

## How to protect GPA and avoid suspension or dismissal at end of Spring 2020

Because of the situation in Spring 2020, the grade policy has been amended to allow students to optionally change their earned letter grades. The grades students can take will be the standard A, B, C, D, or F, plus these Special Circumstance Grades:

- SCP: Special Circumstances Pass. Used for grades of A, B, or C. Credit is awarded, but will not affect GPA.
- SCD: Special Circumstances D. Credit is awarded, but will not affect GPA. Generally cannot be transferred to another institution. Forgiveness cannot be applied to SCD grades.
- SCN: Special Circumstances No Grade. Can be applied to D or F. No credit is awarded and there is no effect on GPA. Forgiveness cannot be applied to SCN grades.

Here are guidelines to make decisions so that students on Probation make the best academic progress while at the same time avoiding suspension or dismissal. In order to not be suspended or dismissed, the term GPA for Spring 2020 must be at least 2.4 or higher.

1. Keep all As and Bs. This helps academic progress toward getting back on Good Standing (2.0 or higher overall GPA).
2. If a C is earned, then retain it if there is also at least one B (or an A) to counteract it – the average of one C and one B is 2.5, which keeps the term GPA above 2.4. Otherwise convert any C to SCP in order to keep 2.4 on the remaining grades. For example, if a student makes 3 Cs and a B, that is only a 2.25, but if 2 Cs are converted to SCP the term GPA will be 2.5 to meet academic eligibility standards.
3. If a D is earned, convert it to SCD if the course is needed for a requirement (like Gen Ed). If the course is not required for the degree, it can be converted to SCN (no grade) if desired.
4. If you earn an F, convert it to SCN (no grade). This removes any impact on your GPA.

If a student converts all letter grades to either SCN or SCP the academic eligibility status of the student will not change (student will stay on Probation). Technically the term GPA will be 0.0, but it will not be factored into the overall GPA.