

# **ACADEMIC PROBATION AND PROGRESS TOWARD THE DEGREE**

## **What does "probation" mean?**

In any given semester, about 25-30 students are on academic probation. This designation indicates to the student and to his or her advisor that the student is in serious academic difficulty and must take steps immediately to improve his or her academic record. Students on probation are not in *immediate* danger of flunking out of the College, and the majority of students on probation recover quickly from their academic problems. But probation status is serious, and if probation occurs a second time, it places a student below the "Minimal Academic Standards for Continuation" and puts a student at risk for being dismissed from further study at Skidmore (see other side of this sheet).

## **How does a student earn probation status?**

If a student's grade point for a single semester falls below 2.00, or if the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 2.00, he or she is placed on "probation." The designation "probation" appears on the grade report and permanent transcript next to the semester grade point average.

## **What happens next?**

The Office of Academic Advising sends letters to all students on probation urging them to see their faculty advisors and recommending a meeting with a member of the Office of Academic Advising. Both consultations are an effort to clarify the situation with the student, to explore the problems that might have led to the probation, to plan a course of action for the upcoming semester, to acquaint the student with support services at Skidmore, and to review minimal academic standards for continuation.

## **What other consequences are there for the student on probation?**

One's academic standing at Skidmore is of the greatest importance, and students in severe academic jeopardy should devote all of their attention to improving their records. Students proposing an internship for credit must have a 2.00 or better total GPA and not be on academic probation. The Student Government Association disallows students from holding office if the student's cumulative average falls below 2.00. According to Skidmore and NCAA Division III Standards, a student's eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics is also jeopardized by an unsatisfactory academic record. In addition, the Office of Off-Campus Study & Exchanges may not permit a student to study off-campus in the semester following probation. The Committee on Academic Standing and the Office of Academic Advising recommend that students on probation limit their involvement in *all* co-curricular and athletic pursuits in order to concentrate on academic achievement.

## MINIMAL ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR CONTINUATION

Skidmore's Committee on Academic Standing observes four principles in determining full-time matriculated students' eligibility to continue their studies at the College:

1. Each student must meet or exceed semester-by-semester minimal standards for grade point average and for semester hours completed (see the chart below).
2. A student risks being dismissed from Skidmore if his or her term or cumulative GPA falls below 2.00 and thus earns a *second* probation warning.
3. A student's GPA in the major field of study must be at least 2.00 by the end of the junior year and thereafter, or the student risks being dismissed.
4. A student must complete the all-college requirements in a timely and successful fashion (see the timetable in the *Catalog*).

**NOTE:** To remain in good academic standing and to assure their continuation at the College, students must meet **all four** of the standards described above.

**Semester Minimal Academic Standards for Continuation:** The chart below describes the standards which the student must meet by the end of each semester of study.

End of Semester	Semester Hours Completed	Cumulative Grade Point Average
First Semester	6	1.67
Second Semester	18	1.85
Third Semester	30	2.00
Fourth Semester	45	2.00
Fifth Semester	60	2.00
Sixth Semester	72	2.00
Seventh Semester	84	2.00
Eighth Semester	96	2.00
Ninth Semester	108	2.00
Tenth Semester	120	2.00