

Southern Illinois University
School of Law

**Rules Relating to Academic Standing, Probation,
Graduation, and Withdrawal**

[Excerpted from School of Law Rules
for AY 2009–10]

ARTICLE III - ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

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2. Academic Good Standing, Probation, Readmission, Graduation Average and Voluntary Withdrawal [amended 4/15/2008, effective June 1, 2008]

- (a) Good Standing at the End of the Second Resident Semester. Subject to subsections (b) and (c), at the end of the second resident semester (or the equivalent for a part-time student), only students with a cumulative grade point average of 2.300 or above shall be considered to be in “good standing” and eligible to continue studies at the School of Law.
- (b) Probation at the End of the Second Resident Semester. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (f)(i), at the end of the second resident semester (or the equivalent for a part-time student), a student whose cumulative grade point average is at least 2.250 but less than 2.300 shall be placed on academic probation and shall be promptly notified of such action, which notice shall include a copy of this rule. Such student is eligible to continue studies at the School of Law, but only on the conditions that: (i) such student achieves a grade point average of at least 2.300 in each of the next two resident semesters; and (ii) such student achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.300 at the end of his or her fourth resident semester. A student who fails to meet either of these conditions shall be dismissed from the School of Law and shall not be entitled to petition for readmission. A student who is on academic probation may not take less than 12 hours per semester. A student who falls below the 12-hour minimum shall be dismissed.
- (c) Dismissal at the End of the Second Resident Semester and Readmission. At the end of the second resident semester (or the equivalent for a part-time student), a student whose cumulative grade point average is less than 2.250 shall be dismissed from the School of Law. The School of Law shall send prompt written notice to such student, which notice shall include a copy of this rule. If the student has provided the School of Law with both a local address and a permanent address, the notice shall be mailed to both addresses. A student who has been so dismissed from the School of Law may petition the Dean for readmission if: (i)

such student had a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.200 at the end of two resident semesters; or (ii) such student achieved a grade point average of at least 2.300 in one of the two resident semesters, regardless of cumulative grade point average. A student who fails to meet either of these requirements may not petition for readmission and such student has no right to appeal, or to seek any other review of, the student's dismissal, other than a grievance of a grade as provided in Rule III.3(g).

- (i) A student who is allowed to petition for readmission must file a written petition with the Dean within 30 days after notice of dismissal is mailed to the student as provided in section (c). Failure to file a timely petition for readmission shall preclude any further consideration of such petition for readmission. Such petition must address two issues: (a) Is there clear evidence in the student's law school record that the student is capable of achieving a cumulative grade point average of 2.300 at the end of the next two succeeding semesters? and (b) Is there any other clear evidence establishing a reason for the failure to achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.300, which reason is not likely to recur if the student is allowed to continue studies at the School of Law, such as severe illness or other impairment at or near a final examination period? The petitioner may forward with the petition any documentary evidence which the petitioner deems relevant to a determination of these two issues.
- (ii) The Dean or his or her designee shall, within five working days after receipt of the petition for readmission, refer the petition to the Academic Standards Committee. The Academic Standards Committee shall be comprised as provided in Rule VI.7. Members of the Academic Standards Committee shall be provided a copy of the Report of the Rules Committee Regarding Readmission and Related Matters, dated November 19, 1991.
- (iii) Within 10 working days after receipt of the petition, the Academic Standards Committee shall advise the petitioner that the petitioner may appear before the committee to make a statement, furnish further documentary evidence, and answer questions from the members of the committee. If the petitioner elects to attend, the committee shall set a time and place for such meeting in consultation with the petitioner and such meeting shall be audio-taped for such time as the petitioner shall be present at such meeting. Within five working days after such meeting, the committee shall issue its written decision on the petition. The written decision shall address the two issues set forth in subsection (i) above. In order to grant the petition, the committee must find that the petitioner has proven by clear and convincing evidence an affirmative answer to each of the two issues. The committee's decision shall identify the evidence (or lack thereof) on each such issue. The committee shall send one copy of its decision to the petitioner and one copy of its decision, along with the

petition, any documentation provided by the petitioner, and the audio-tape of the meeting, to the Dean.

- (iv) The decision of the committee to grant the petition shall be final. If the decision of the committee is to deny the petition, the petitioner may appeal the committee's decision to the Dean by written notice to the Dean sent within five working days after the petitioner's receipt of the committee's decision. The Dean shall review the petition, documentation, and the audio-tape and shall affirm the committee's decision if it is supported by substantial evidence. The Dean shall send one copy of his or her decision to the petitioner and one copy to the chair of the committee. The decision of the Dean shall be final. The petition, documentation and audio-tape shall be preserved in the School of Law records for the period required by the School of Law records retention policy.
- (v) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (f)(ii), if a petition for readmission is granted, such student will be allowed to continue studies at the School of Law, but only on the conditions that: (i) such student attains a grade point average of at least 2.300 in each of the next two semesters; and (ii) such student attains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.300 at the end of the fourth semester. A student who fails to meet either of these conditions shall be dismissed from the School of Law and may not petition for readmission and such student has no right to appeal, or to seek any other review of, the student's dismissal, other than a grievance of a grade as provided in Rule III.3(g). A student who has been readmitted must complete a minimum of 12 hours a semester. A student who falls below the 12-hour minimum shall be dismissed. [amended 11/2005; 4/15/08]
- (d) Academic Standing at the End of the Fourth Resident Semester. Except as otherwise provided in subsections (f)(i)–(f)(iii), at the end of the fourth resident semester, only students with a cumulative grade point average of 2.300 will be considered in “good standing” and eligible to continue their studies at the School of Law. Any student whose cumulative grade point average is less than 2.300 at such time shall be dismissed from the School of Law, but may petition for readmission as outlined in subsections (c)(i)–(v), unless such student has previously been on academic probation or readmitted, in which case no further petition for readmission shall be allowed and such student has no right to appeal, or to seek any other review of, the student's dismissal, other than a grievance of a grade as provided in Rule III.3(g).
- (e) Academic Standing After the End of the Fourth Resident Semester and Graduation Average. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (f)(iv), in order to graduate, a student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.300 in all work completed after the student attains senior status and an overall

cumulative grade point average of 2.300.

- (f) Special Rules for Students Enrolled Prior to May 31, 2008. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in subsections (b), (c)(v), (d), and (e), the following special rules apply to students who had completed at least two resident semesters prior to May 31, 2008.
- (i) Probation. A student who completed his or her second resident semester prior to May 31, 2008, and who had a cumulative grade point average of at least 1.950, but less than 2.000 shall be placed on academic probation as provided in subsection (b) and is allowed to continue the student's studies, subject to the following conditions.
- a. such student achieves a grade point average of at least 2.300 in each of the next two resident semesters; and
 - b. such student achieves a notional cumulative grade point average at the end of the student's fourth resident semester, calculated as follows: the student's good standing under subsection (d) shall be determined by adding .3 to the student's grade in each course completed prior to May 31, 2008, and then calculating a notional cumulative grade point average. In order to be in good standing, this notional cumulative grade point average must be at least 2.300 for all course work completed during the four resident semesters. The notional grade point average so computed shall be used solely for purposes of the calculation of good standing and shall not be reported as such student's actual cumulative grade point average.
- A student who fails to meet either of these conditions shall be dismissed from the School of Law and shall not be entitled to petition for readmission and such student has no right to appeal, or to seek any other review of, the student's dismissal, other than a grievance of a grade as provided in Rule III.3(g). A student who is on academic probation may not take less than 12 hours per semester. A student who falls below the 12-hour minimum shall be dismissed.
- (ii) Dismissal and Readmission. A student who completed his or her second resident semester prior to May 31, 2008 and who was readmitted as provided in subsection (c) is allowed to continue the student's studies, subject to the following conditions:
- a. such student achieves a grade point average of at least 2.300 in each of the next two resident semesters; and
 - b. such student achieves a notional cumulative grade point average at

the end of the student's fourth resident semester, calculated as follows: the student's good standing under subsection (d) shall be determined by adding .3 to the student's grade in each course completed prior to May 31, 2008, and then calculating a notional cumulative grade point average. In order to be in good standing, this notional cumulative grade point average must be at least 2.300 for all course work completed during the four resident semesters. The notional grade point average so computed shall be used solely for purposes of the calculation of good standing and shall not be reported as such student's actual cumulative grade point average.

A student who fails to meet either of these conditions shall be dismissed from the School of Law and shall not be entitled to petition for readmission and such student has no right to appeal, or to seek any other review of, the student's dismissal, other than a grievance of a grade as provided in Rule III.3(g). A student who has been readmitted may not take less than 12 hours per semester. A student who falls below the 12-hour minimum shall be dismissed.

- (iii) Academic Good Standing at the End of the Fourth Resident Semester. A student who had completed two resident semesters prior to May 31, 2008 and who was in good standing at the end of the second resident semester will be deemed to be in "good standing" and eligible to continue studies at the School of Law if, at the end of the fourth resident semester, the student maintains a minimum grade point average of 2.300 for all course work completed after May 31, 2008.
- (iv) Graduation Average. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (f)(iv)(a), in order to graduate, and in lieu of the requirement of a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.300 in subsection (e), a student who had completed at least two resident semesters prior to May 31, 2008 must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.300 for all course work completed after May 31, 2008.
 - a. In order to graduate, a student who had completed at least five resident semesters prior to May 31, 2008, and who was in good standing at the end of the fourth resident semester must achieve a notional cumulative grade point average at the completion of all course work at the School of Law of at least 2.300, calculated as follows: the student's notional cumulative grade point average shall be determined by adding .3 to the student's grade in each course completed prior to May 31, 2008, and then calculating a notional cumulative grade point average. The notional grade point average so computed shall be used solely for purposes of determining whether the student satisfies the requirements of this

subsection (f)(iv)(a) and shall not be reported as such student's actual cumulative grade point average.

- (g) Voluntary Withdrawal Before the End of the Second Resident Semester. A student who has completed less than two resident semesters may voluntarily withdraw from the School of Law and may return without petition if he/she does so within 15 months following the date of withdrawal; provided, however, that if such student has been assigned a final grade in any course (or has completed all assignments in a course, but not yet been assigned a final grade) prior to withdrawal, such student may not re-take such course prior to the end of the student's second resident semester and such student's good standing shall be determined at the end of the second resident semester based on his or her cumulative grade point average in all law school courses in which a final grade has been assigned. If more than 15 months have elapsed since the student's withdrawal, he/she may return only by petitioning the Dean, which petition shall, subject to Rule III.2(c), be freely granted if justice so requires. Whether returning during the allowed 15-month period or by petition granted by the Dean, a student who withdraws during his or her first year must complete all required first-year courses before being permitted to take upper-level courses. Good standing will then be determined at the completion of the second resident semester as contemplated in Rule III.2(a).
- (h) Voluntary Withdrawal After the End of the Second Resident Semester. A student who has completed at least two resident semesters and who is in good standing may voluntarily withdraw from the School of Law and may return without petition if he/she does so within 15 months following the date of withdrawal. If more than 15 months have elapsed since the student's withdrawal, he/she may return only by petitioning the Dean, which petition shall, subject to Rule III.2(c), be freely granted if justice so requires. A student who has completed at least two resident semesters and who is not in good standing and who voluntarily withdraws from School of Law may return only by petitioning the Dean and such petition shall be treated in the way outlined for a petition for readmission.