STANDARDS FOR ACADEMIC PROBATION AND DISMISSAL (Approved March 5, 2013; Amended April 23, 2019; August 10, 2021)

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Availability of Standards: The Assistant Dean for Student Affairs shall make these Standards available on the law school’s website and provide printed copies to students on request.

B. Definitions:

1. “Written notice” means notice sent via letter to the student’s address on file in One.IU and via email to the student’s official university e-mail address.

2. "Semester" refers to either the fall or spring semester. It does not include the summer term. The term “session” includes semesters and terms, including summer terms.

C. Computation of Grade Point Average (GPA): In determining the number of credit hours a student has accumulated and in computing the student’s grade point average:

1. any course in which the student has received a grade of F shall be counted;

2. pursuant to Section I.A.1 of the Student Handbook, any required course that the student must repeat shall be averaged and counted only once;

3. any course, other than a required course repeated pursuant to Section I.A.1 of the Student Handbook, that the student has repeated shall be counted each time;

4. any course in which the student has received an Incomplete shall not be counted.

D. Computation of GPA for Transfer Students: For purposes of these Standards the grade point average of a transfer student shall be computed based solely on the coursework the student has taken while a J.D. candidate at this school.

E. Second Decimal Place Precision: For the purpose of determining grade point averages for academic probation and dismissal, any grade point average that is x.xx5 or higher is rounded up to the next hundredth decimal place. For example, a 2.295 grade point average is rounded up to a 2.30 but a 2.294 is rounded down to a 2.29.

F. Monitoring: As soon as practicable following the conclusion of every fall, spring, and summer academic session, the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs shall review the academic standing of all students and shall determine which of those students have achieved a cumulative grade point average under 2.50.

G. Student Contact Information: All students enrolled in law school have a duty to keep their contact information on One.IU up to date. The timeliness of a notice of academic warning, academic probation, or dismissal is conclusively established when a letter was sent to the address on file and was emailed to the student’s official
II. ACADEMIC PROBATION AND DISMISSAL

A. Statement of Policy: In accordance with the American Bar Association Standard 308, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law has sound academic standards, including clearly defined standards for good standing and graduation. The law school shall monitor students’ academic progress and achievement from the beginning of and periodically throughout their studies. Furthermore, the law school shall not continue the enrollment of a student whose inability to do satisfactory work is sufficiently manifest that the student’s continuation in school would inculcate false hopes, constitute economic exploitation, or detrimentally affect the education of other students.

B. Minimum GPA Requirements:

1. Good Standing: A cumulative grade point average of 2.30 or better is required for a student to be in good standing.

2. First Semester under 2.50: Students with a cumulative GPA under 2.50 at the end of their first semester of their first (1L) year will receive an academic warning letter from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. A student who receives an academic warning letter is required to meet with the Assistant Dean or Associate Director of Academic and Bar Success to develop and implement an academic achievement plan; failure to meet with the Assistant Dean or Associate Director of Academic and Bar Success shall result in inability to register for further courses through an advising hold on One.IU. The student should also take advantage of all required or recommended academic success support services.

3. Subsequent Sessions under 2.00: Dismissal: Students with a cumulative GPA of less than 2.0 at the end of their first two semesters or any subsequent session shall be dismissed from law school. The Assistant Dean for Student Affairs shall give written notice of dismissal to each such student.

4. Subsequent Sessions between 2.00 and 2.30: Academic Probation: Students whose cumulative GPA at the end of their first two semesters or any subsequent session is less than 2.30 but more than 2.00 shall be placed on academic probation. The Assistant Dean for Student Affairs shall give written notice of this event and these Standards to such students.

5. Subsequent Sessions Between 2.30 and 2.50: Academic Warning: Students whose cumulative GPA at the end of their first two semesters or any subsequent session is less than 2.50 but more than 2.30 shall receive an academic warning letter from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. A student who receives an academic warning letter is required to meet with the Assistant Dean or Associate Director of Academic and Bar Success to develop and implement an academic achievement plan; failure to meet with the Assistant Dean or Associate Director of Academic and Bar Success shall
result in inability to register for further courses through an advising hold on One.IU. The student should also take advantage of all required or recommended academic success services.

C. Academic Probation Conditions: Once placed on academic probation, a student has twenty (20) credit hours to achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 2.3. A student will remain on academic probation for the full twenty (20) credit hours, even if the student achieves a cumulative GPA of at least 2.3 prior to that time. This is to ensure that students have developed the foundational study and exam skills necessary to continue achieving academic success. As such, the “probation period” is defined as the session within which the student is notified of the academic probation placement until the session within which the student reaches twenty (20) credit hours on academic probation. The Assistant Dean for Academic and Bar Success may, individually or in consultation with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, any Vice Dean, or any faculty member, impose or recommend any educationally reasonable conditions on the student. Such conditions may include:

1. developing a plan for academic progress with the Assistant Dean or Associate Director for Academic and Bar Success;
2. meeting regularly with the Assistant Dean or Associate Director for Academic and Bar Success;
3. attending special instructional sessions;
4. meeting regularly with a mentor;
5. achieving a certain minimum session GPA, during the academic probation session(s);
6. enrolling or not enrolling in specific courses;
7. enrolling in fewer credit hours per session;
8. taking a leave of absence; or
9. other conditions deemed appropriate by the Assistant Dean for Academic and Bar Success.

D. Modification of Conditions: A student on probation is entitled to request at any time that a condition be removed or modified; such request shall be submitted in writing to the Assistant Dean, who may approve the removal or modification upon a showing of good cause.

E. Written Notice: Conditions shall be provided to the student in writing. The Assistant Dean or Associate Director for Academic and Bar Success shall place a copy in the student’s file.

F. Failure to Fulfill Conditions: A student on academic probation who does not fulfill the conditions of probation may, after written notice and reasonable opportunity to respond, be dismissed, required to withdraw, or required to take a leave of absence.
The Assistant Dean of Student Affairs shall give written notice of such action to the student.

G. Mandatory Academic Dismissal: A student on academic probation who fails to maintain session GPAs of 2.30 or does not raise his/her/their cumulative GPA to at least 2.30 in the session within which the student reaches 20 credit hours on academic probation shall be dismissed. The Assistant Dean of Student Affairs shall give written notice of dismissal to the student. A student who achieves a 2.30 cumulative GPA at the end of the probation period has successfully completed academic probation. The Assistant Dean of Academic and Bar Success shall give written notice of successful completion to the student.

H. Restriction on Readmission: Any student who has been dismissed pursuant to these Standards will not be readmitted. A dismissed student may, however, apply as a new student in the third or later academic year following their dismissal. Upon a showing of good cause to the law school admissions committee, however, any student who has been dismissed pursuant to these Standards may apply as a new student in the second academic year following their dismissal.

I. Implementation: These Standards shall apply to every student who begins his or her study at the law school after the semester during which the faculty approves these standards.