



CAL POLY

From APDQ to Academic Notice: Supporting Student Success at Cal Poly

**Academic Senate
October 7, 2025**

Beth Merritt Miller, Assistant Vice Provost for University Advising
Susan Cheng, Associate Provost for Student Success

History of Policy Revision

TIMELINE

- Conducted data analysis to review current policy - 2022
- Identified equity gaps - underrepresented and first-generation students
- Deferred policy revision due to semester conversion – 2022
- Launched work group with broad representation – October 2024

Cross-Functional Design Group

MEMBERS

- Susan Cheng - co-chair
- Beth Merritt Miller - co-chair
- Craig Hooper – College of Ag, Food, Env Sci Advising
- Katie Jennings – Engineering Student Services
- Zoe Wood – College of Engineering
- Katie Harris – Colle of Liberal Arts Advising
- Drexler Alcantara – Orfalea College of Business Student Services
- Annie Amos – Mustang Success Center
- Camille O’Bryant – Bailey College of Science & Math
- Shonna Davis Clarke – Bailey College of Science & Math Student Services
- Nick Bilich – Dean of Students
- Cem Sunata – Office of the Registrar
- Maureen Muller - Office of the Registrar
- Bond Allen – Office of the Registrar
- Tiffany Kwapnoski – Univ Advising Retention
- Kara Hitchcock – Univ Advising Retention
- Joyce Lin – Graduate Education
- Katie Hansen – Maritime Academy
- Krystal Loera – Maritime Academy
- Jadyn Snear - Student

Summary of Policy Updates

Current Policy (2016)	Updated Policy (2026)
Standing based on 3 GPAs: Term GPA, Cal Poly GPA, and Higher Ed GPA	Consistent in revised 2026 policy
First-term protection: new first-years & transfers cannot be dismissed after 1st term	Consistent in revised 2026 policy
“Administrative” category: for override of Academic Standing	Administrative-Academic Notice/Dismissal: used for repeated course withdrawals, failing major classes, or ignoring requirements, and override of acad standing
“Academic Probation” terminology	Reframed as “Academic Notice” (supportive, not punitive)
No formal individualized recovery plan	Academic Success Agreements required after successful dismissal appeals; agreements can be paused for leave
Appeals – not included in policy	Expanded appeals criteria: procedural error, extenuating circumstances, new info, or non-academic discrimination
Focus on compliance and minimum GPA	Guiding principles now equity-focused, acknowledging systemic & structural barriers



“Academic Probation - I’m off of it, on it. Off. Back on it. It feels like a slow decline here for me at Cal Poly. Just because you are on it does not mean it defines you. It’s been so stigmatizing. I’m always afraid I might lose my scholarship money when I go on it. I can’t talk to my parents about this. We need more support, more community, more proactive advising.”

- Cal Poly Second Year Student

Academic Probation - Name Change

ACADEMIC NOTICE vs. ACADEMIC WARNING

1. Academic Notice

- UCs
- CSUs - 14 campuses (including Maritime)

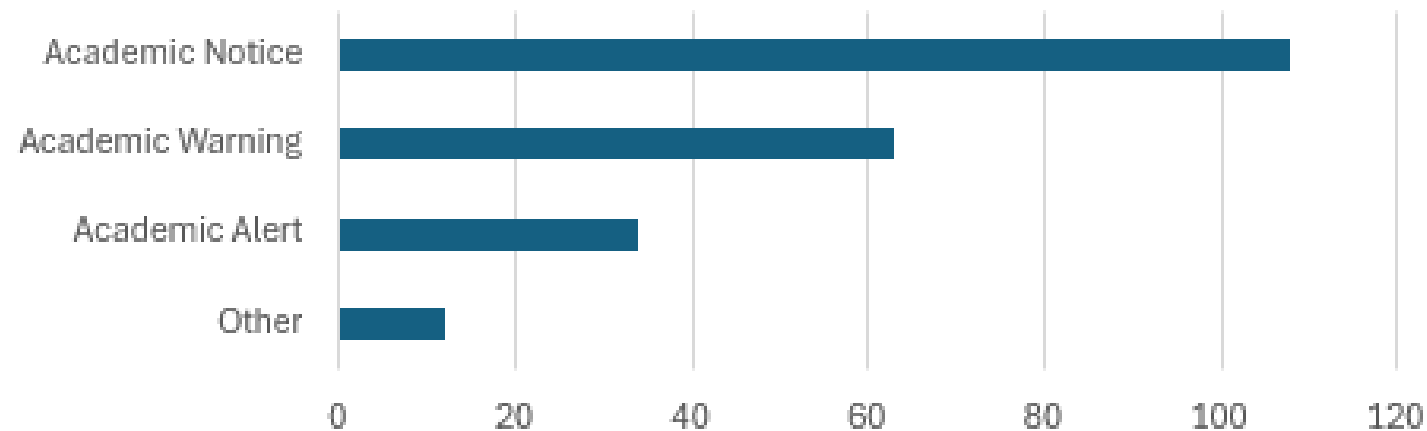
2. Academic Warning

- CSUs - 2 campuses

Name Change - Feedback

FIRST-YEAR SUCCESS PROGRAM SURVEY

Cal Poly is considering changing the name of Academic Probation. As a student, which of the following names would you prefer to hear that best communicates your current academic situation?



Academic Disqualification Status – Name Change

ACADEMIC DISQUALIFICATION STATUS or SUBJECT TO DISMISSAL

1. Academic Disqualification

- Most CSUs have several thresholds
- Leads to Dismissal

2. Subject to Dismissal

- Maritime uses this term
- Clearer to explain the action to take to not be Dismissed

Benchmarking

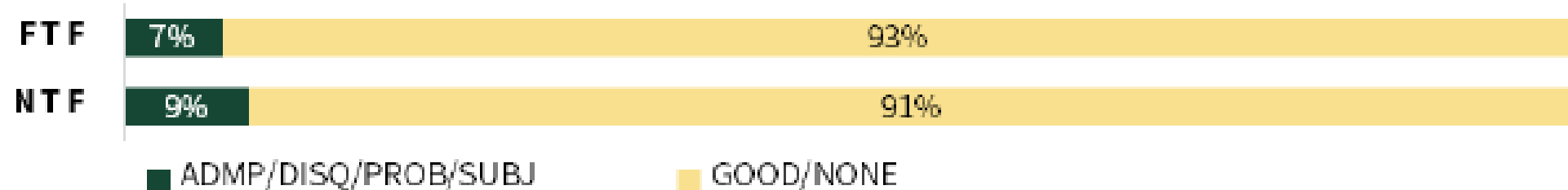
Moving away from punishment towards reinforcing student assets and support.

Higher Ed Institution /Consortium Examples	Student Success Impact
CSU Fullerton	93% felt <i>scared</i> ; stronger negative effects for Latino & Black students; term seen as punitive/criminalizing → disengagement & shame
College Transition Collaborative	Students interpret “probation” as punishment → embarrassment, stigmas and hiding behaviors.
Moorpark College	Renamed “probation” → “notice” → persistence rose 69% → 74% (+9 pts for Latino/a students)
Purdue University	Probation lowers 4-year grad rates; stigma erodes belonging & confidence
California Competes	Calls for statewide adoption of “academic notice” + student asset strengths-based communication focus
CSU Channel Islands	Advocates “academic notice” as non-criminalizing, bolstering student success.

Average Number of Students - APDQ

FALL 2016-SPRING 2019

Average % of Students in APDQ Status Quarterly by Admit Type



EO 1038 – Minimum Requirements

CURRENT STATUS

Phase	Description
Academic Probation Academic Notice	Current term, CPSLO, HE GPA below 2.0
Early Indicators - more than one time on academic notice	
Academic Disqualification Subject to Dismissal	Academic progress levels:
Academic Progress Level IV (75.1%-100%):	1.950 Cal Poly Cumulative or Higher Ed GPA
Academic Progress Level III (45.1%-75%):	1.850 Cal Poly Cumulative or Higher Ed GPA
Academic Progress Level II (20.1%-45%):	1.700 Cal Poly Cumulative or Higher Ed GPA
Academic Progress Level I (0%-20%):	1.500 Cal Poly Cumulative or Higher Ed GPA
Dismissal	

Process and Decision-Making

- Not a resolution: Has not gone through Academic Senate resolution since 1991.
- Procedures: Outreach before students reach Academic Notice

Process and Decision-Making

- Appeals line (Section VIII. Criteria for Appeals):
Students may appeal this decision in accordance with the university's established procedures. The final review must be submitted in writing with supporting documentation to the Provost/Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, or designee.
- Criteria for appeal may include but is not limited to:
 - Procedural error
 - Extenuating circumstances
 - New information
 - Non-academic criteria

Administrative Actions

MANUAL PROCESSES THAT DEPARTMENTS/COLLEGES CAN USE

1. Overrides any Academic Standing
2. Administrative - Academic Notice & Administrative - Academic Dismissal
3. Included language from Cal Maritime/Cal Poly Solano Campus
4. Allows colleges to address multiple terms on Academic Notice, not make EAP, repeating key courses in major, etc.
5. Very rarely is Adm-Academic Dismissal used

Revised Language

INCLUSION AND CLARITY

- Guiding Principles
- Student Success Clause



Procedure Guide

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OUTSIDE POLICY

1. Consistency in success contracts and terms
2. Explore Deficiency Points for contracts
3. Major GPA
4. Number of terms on Academic Notice - use Adm Academic Notice
5. Dismissal only end of Spring Semester for FTFY and NTR
(Presented to Academic Exec Committee - May 20, 2025)

Questions

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