

Academic Standing/Satisfactory Progress toward the Degree

Determination of a student's academic status is made by the faculty Committee on Academic Standing. The committee reserves the right to make decisions on an individual student's academic progress. The criteria differ according to degree program. See below for details on the criteria for the three undergraduate degrees: **BS in Engineering**; **BA or BS in the School of Arts and Sciences**; and **BFA in the School of Arts and Sciences**. Students in the Arts and Sciences Combined BFA and BA or BS degree are held to the criteria for the BA or BS in Arts and Sciences.

Academic standing is reviewed by the faculty Committees on Academic Standing in January for the fall semester and June for the spring semester. Incompletes are not considered earned credits and may impact a student's academic standing if unresolved before academic standing is reviewed.

Due to the pedagogical changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the academic standing criteria were adjusted for Spring 2020 and Fall 2020. Please refer to the [Academic Policy Exceptions website](#) for details.

Arts and Sciences BA/BS And CD Degree Programs

Academic Standing

The academic status of students earning a BA or BS in the School of Arts and Sciences is determined by the School of Arts and Sciences faculty Committee on Academic Standing. The committee reserves the right to make decisions on an individual student's academic progress. Students earning a BFA are not subject to the degrees of academic status outlined below, though students earning a BA/BFA or BS/BFA are subject to the terms of academic status for the BA or BS portion of their program. Academic standing is reviewed by the faculty Committees on Academic Standing in January for the fall semester and June for the spring semester.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements

Students must earn 12 credits and a grade point average of 2.0 or better for each semester of full-time enrollment. Incompletes are not considered earned credits and may impact a student's academic standing if unresolved before academic standing is reviewed. If a letter grade later replaces the grade in Incomplete, this will not alter the student's academic standing for the semester in which it is in force.

Failure to Make Satisfactory Academic Progress

Academic Alert: A student will be sent an academic alert at the end of any semester in which a student earned fewer than 12 credits but more than 8 credits and/or failed one course of any credit value. A student will also receive an academic alert if they have fallen below the minimal credit expectations for Satisfactory Academic Progress (see chart below). The student's advisor will be notified. Students who receive an academic alert are still considered to be in "Good Academic Standing" and no transcript notation will be made.

Academic Probation: A student will normally be placed on academic probation by the Committee on Academic Standing at the end of any semester in which a student earned 8 credits or fewer and/or a semester GPA lower than 2.0. If placed on academic probation, the student will no longer be in good academic standing, and notification of this status will be sent to the student's advisor. A notation of academic probation will be recorded on the student's unofficial transcript. To return to good academic standing, in the following semester, the student must complete a minimum of 12 credits and earn a minimum term GPA of 2.0.

Required to Withdraw (1 semester): Students whose academic performance meets the criteria for academic probation for a second semester (consecutive or not) will be subject to a required academic withdrawal for one semester. The requirement to withdraw will be recorded on a student's transcript, and the student's advisor and parents/guardians will be notified. A student who returns after a required withdrawal will return on a probationary status.

Permanent Academic Withdrawal: If a student returns to Tufts after a required withdrawal, they must remain in good standing from that point forward. If the student meets the criteria for academic probation in any ensuing semester, they may be permanently withdrawn from the university as determined by the Committee on Academic Standing. The permanent withdrawal will be recorded on the student's transcript.

Satisfactory Progress Toward the Degree: Undergraduate students in the School of Arts and Sciences are expected to earn on average 15 credits per semester to make good progress toward completing their bachelor's degree within eight full-time semesters. Students will be alerted by their Advising Dean if they have fallen below the minimal recommended credit thresholds and are not earning substantive credits to make satisfactory progress toward the degree. Satisfactory progress is defined by the number of cumulative credits completed by the end of each semester, as follows:

Semester	Expected Credits
First	12
Second	30
Third	45
Fourth	60
Fifth	75

Sixth	90
Seventh	105
Eighth	120

The above chart is a recommended guideline: students are required to earn a minimum of 120 cumulative credits to reach degree completion. If a student decides to pursue fewer credits during a fall or spring term, it is their responsibility to adhere to the academic standing criteria outlined above and to pursue additional credits at a later time to remain on a reasonable track to complete 120 credits by their final semester of academic study. While first semester First Year students must remain enrolled in a minimum of 9 credits, it is understood that they may choose to enroll in fewer than the recommended number of credits while they adjust to collegiate life. All students should consult their Advising Dean if they need guidance about satisfactory academic progress.

Students who receive financial aid will need to consult their financial aid coordinator to ensure they are adhering to financial aid compliance standards.

Arts and Sciences BFA Candidates

Academic Standing and Satisfactory Progress Toward the Degree

- BFA students must receive a minimum of 75% of credits attempted each semester and maintain a cumulative grade point average of C- (1.67) or better.
- Grades of Incomplete (INC) will be considered “credit not earned.” Two or more grades of INC within a given semester constitutes unsatisfactory progress.
- Grades of W will also be considered “credit not earned” for the purposes of satisfactory academic progress. Grades of W do not factor into a student’s GPA.

Academic Warning

Students in good standing who do not make satisfactory academic progress as defined above during any semester will be given an Academic Warning. Students who make satisfactory academic progress for the semester in which they are on Academic Warning will return to [good standing](#).

Academic Probation

Students who fail to make satisfactory academic progress as defined above for a semester in which they are on an Academic Warning will be placed on Probation. Students on Probation are still eligible to enroll at SMFA at Tufts but are ineligible for federal financial aid. Students on Probation have the right to appeal to retain financial aid one time during their academic career. Appeals and supporting documentation must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office for review

and approval. Students who make satisfactory academic progress for the semester in which they are on Academic Probation will return to [good standing](#). Students on Probation are required to meet with the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Advising for the SMFA at Tufts prior to the beginning of the next semester of enrollment in order to develop an academic plan for returning to good academic standing and successful completion of the program.

Required to Withdraw

Students who fail to make satisfactory academic progress for a semester in which they are on Probation will be required to withdraw for 1 semester. A student who returns after being required to withdraw will return on a probationary status. It is important that students who successfully petitions for reentry consider their readiness to resume academic studies. Any student who reenters after being required to withdraw who falls into that status for a second time may be permanently withdrawn from Tufts.

A note on Incomplete Grades: Undergraduate students who have been required to withdraw from the University or who take a personal or medical leave of absence must complete all outstanding written work and exams to resolve all grades of Incomplete prior to being able to return for subsequent semesters. Learn more: [Arts and Sciences BA/BS](#), [Arts and Sciences BFA](#), and [Engineering](#).

Permanent Academic Withdrawal

A student who returns after having been required to withdraw for a semester and meets the criteria for academic probation in any ensuing semester will be subject to a permanent academic withdrawal, determined by the SMFA Committee on Academic Standing.

Engineering BS Degree Program

Academic Standing/Satisfactory Progress Toward the Degree

Determination of a student's academic status is made by the School of Engineering faculty Committee on Academic Standing. The committee reserves the right to make decisions on an individual student's academic progress.

Academic Alert: A student will be sent an academic alert at the end of any semester in which the student earned fewer than 12 semester hours but more than 4, and/or failed one course of any semester hour value. Incompletes are not earned credits. The student's advisor will be notified. No transcript notation will be made.

Academic Probation: A student will normally be placed on academic probation by the Committee on Academic Standing at the end of any semester in which the student earned 4 semester hours or fewer and/or a semester GPA lower than 2.0 and/or failed to make satisfactory progress as defined by number of credits earned at the end of any semester beyond

their first semester. Satisfactory academic progress for each semester is defined by the number of semester hours listed below (see table). Incompletes are not earned credits. If put on academic probation, the student will no longer be in good academic standing, and notification of this status will be sent to the student's advisor. The probation status will also be recorded on the student's unofficial transcript. To return to good academic standing, in the following semester a student must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours and earn a minimum term GPA of 2.0. An additional grace period may be allowed for the student to make satisfactory progress toward their degree as defined by the number of semester hours earned (see table). Students on academic probation who do not meet these criteria will either remain on academic probation or will be required to withdraw for one semester.

Required Academic Withdrawal: If a student's academic performance in any subsequent semester meets the criteria for academic probation, then the student will normally be required to withdraw for one semester.

Summary:

- Academic Alert: 5-11 semester hours and/or failed one course of any semester hour value. In good academic standing; student and advisor notified; no transcript notation.
- Academic Probation: 0-4 semester hours and/or term GPA 0–1.99 and/or failed to make satisfactory progress as defined by the number of semester hours earned at the end of any semester beyond their first semester. No longer in good academic standing; student and advisor notified; notation on unofficial transcript.
- Required Academic Withdrawal for one semester: Credits and GPA meet the criteria of academic probation for any subsequent semester. No longer in good standing; student, advisor, and parents/guardians notified; notation on unofficial transcript.

Permanent Academic Withdrawal: A student who returns from having been required to withdraw for a semester and meets the criteria for academic probation in any semester after the return will be subject to a permanent academic withdrawal, determined by the Committee on Academic Standing.

Satisfactory Progress Toward the Degree: Undergraduates will be alerted by their Advising Dean if they are not earning adequate semester hours to make satisfactory progress toward the degree. Satisfactory progress is defined by the number of semester hours completed by the end of each semester, as follows:

Semester	Expected Credits
First	12
Second	24
Third	39

Fourth	54
Fifth	70
Sixth	86
Seventh	102
Eighth	120