

Policy on Academic Standing in the Undergraduate Major, Revised  
College of Science  
(Original policy approved by the ADRRC, April 2010; revised policy  
approved by the ADRCC, April 2014)

Science is challenging academically. Whereas SJSU CUM GPA is the metric used for academic standing in the University, the SJSU Major GPA is the appropriate metric for determining a student's progress in the College of Science. The Major GPA for the purposes of major probation and disqualification from the major will refer to the lower GPA of either:

- i. the courses listed in the catalog under "Requirement of the Major", or
- ii. the courses listed in the catalog under both "Preparation for the Major" and "Requirement of the Major".

The Major GPA includes courses taken both before and after admission to SJSU and may include courses taken at other institutions after initial admission to SJSU.

This policy provides the conditions necessary for a student to be considered in good academic standing in the College of Science. Students will be considered to have a major in the College of Science for the fall or spring semester based on their declared major on the day that academic standing for the University is posted for that semester. Probation and disqualification in the major status will be determined only after Fall and Spring semesters. Students will be notified of their probation or disqualification status within 10 business days following the posting of academic standing for the University for the particular fall or spring semester.

This policy involves five areas:

1. Probation in the Major
2. Progress to Degree for Entering First Time Freshmen
3. Progress to Degree in the Major for all students in the College of Science
4. Disqualification from the Major
5. Reinstatement to the Major

### **1. Probation in the Major**

Note: This policy is adapted from F96-11, Academic Standards; Probation; Disqualification.

- a. Any College of Science student will be placed on probation in the major if their cumulative College of Science Major GPA falls below a "C" average (2.0).
- b. Any College of Science student placed on University probation will also be placed on probation in the major.
- c. The College of Science Advising Center (CoSAC) will make reasonable attempts to notify any undergraduate student who is subject to probation in the

major; however, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of his/her Major GPA. A student that is unsure of his/her Major GPA should meet with an advisor for an official calculation.

- d. College of Science students on probation in the major must meet with an advisor in the College of Science Advising Center to design a study plan and formulate a contract to bring their Major GPA to 2.0 or better in the following term.
- e. College of Science students on probation in the major must earn a Major GPA of 2.0 or better every term until their cumulative Major GPA is 2.0 or above to be removed from probation in the major and restored to good academic standing in the major.
- f. Special circumstances:
  - i. If a student repeats a course for Grade Forgiveness (Senate Policy F08-2) purposes, the earned grade for Grade Forgiveness is the grade of record and "students may repeat an individual course for Grade Forgiveness only once".
  - ii. Aligned with F08-2, Section I.C.1, courses that are repeated but do not qualify for grade forgiveness will be used in calculating the major GPA using grade averaging. This includes courses taken at other colleges or universities. .
  - iii. Students will remain on probation in the major until they return to good standing in the major. All work taken through Open University or other colleges is included in the cumulative record and is considered in determination of probation and disqualification in the major.
  - iv. Former undergraduate students on probation in the major at the close of their last enrollment will be readmitted on probation in the major provided they are otherwise eligible for readmission to the University. All students must furnish transcripts of any college work taken during their absence.

## **2. Progress to Degree for Entering First Time Freshmen:**

- a. All students entering SJSU as first-time freshmen with a declared major in the College of Science must complete the specified coursework in their major, including any required remedial coursework, within their first 60 baccalaureate units attempted. All specified courses must be completed with grades of "C" or better with an overall cumulative SJSU GPA of at least 2.0. Note that some majors require "C-" or better for specified courses.

College of Science Major-specific baccalaureate units required for progress to degree for first time freshmen:

Biological Sciences: Biol 1A; Biol 1B; Chem1A; Chem 1B; Engl 1A, and pass

WST or equivalent.

Chemistry majors: Chem 1A; Chem 1B; Math 30; Engl1A, and pass WST or equivalent.

Computer Science majors: CS 46A; CS 46B; Math 30; Math 31; Math 42; Engl 1A, and pass WST or equivalent.

Geology majors: Geol 3 and Geol 4L; or Geol 1 and Geol 7; Chem 1A; Chem 1B; Math 19; Engl 1A, and pass WST or equivalent.

Mathematics & Statistics majors: Math 30; Math 31; Math 42; Engl 1A, and pass WST or equivalent.

Meteorology & Climate Science majors: Metr 10 or Met 12; Metr 40, Chem 1A; Math 30; Math 31 or Biol 1A; Phys 2A or 50; Engl 1A, and pass WST or equivalent.

Physics & Astronomy majors: Phys 50; Chem 1A; Chem 1B; Math 30; Math 31; Engl 1A, and pass WST or equivalent.

- b. Students may complete these courses at a community college as long as the community college coursework articulates with the above SJSU coursework. These community college units will be counted toward the 60 attempted units.
- c. Students who have not completed the requirements for progress to degree by 30 baccalaureate units attempted at SJSU will be put on major probation.
- d. The College of Science will make reasonable attempts to notify any undergraduate student who is subject to probation in the major; however, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of his/her lack of progress in the degree. Any student unclear about his/her degree progress should check with an advisor.
- e. College of Science students on probation in the major must meet with an advisor in the College of Science Advising Center to design a study plan for progressing in the degree and formulate a probation contract.
- f. Students who successfully complete their probation contract and have a major GPA and SJSU cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in the subsequent semester will be returned to good standing in the major

## **2. Progress to Degree for All Students with Declared Science Major**

- a. All students with a declared major in the College of Science must make progress to their degree by taking courses required for their degree including GE courses and major courses. For every 30 units completed after declaring a major in the

College of Science, each student must complete 27 units that count toward their degree composed of GE and major courses as recommended by the degree “road map” or by their academic advisor, excluding units required for a declared minor or special instruction (workshop) units. Any student who does not meet this requirement for progress to degree will be placed on major probation.

- b. All students with a declared major in the College of Science must also receive a grade for all major prerequisite courses that allow them to continue in the degree. Students who need to repeat more than three major or preparation for the major courses or who need to repeat a particular course for a second time will be placed on major probation.
- c. College of Science students on probation in the major must meet with an advisor in the College of Science Advising Center to design a study plan for progressing in the degree and formulate a probation contract.
- d. Students who successfully complete their probation contract and have a major GPA and SJSU cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 will be returned to good standing in the major.

### **3. Disqualification from the Major:**

- a. Students are subject to disqualification at the end of the succeeding fall or spring semester from their College of Science major when:
  - i. they are on probation in the major, and
  - ii. they have been notified that they have been placed on probation in the major, and
  - iii. they fail to meet with a College of Science academic advisor, or fail to successfully complete the probation contract for that semester; and/or
  - iv. they fail to maintain a major GPA of at least 2.0.
- b. College of Science students who are disqualified under this policy will be notified by the College of Science that they are no longer eligible to continue in their College of Science major. Their major will be changed to Undeclared unless another major for which they are qualified is selected and approved by the new major's academic advisor.
- c. In cases of error or extenuating circumstances, a student, upon receiving notice of probation or disqualification in the major, may petition immediately to the associate dean of the college. The associate dean will convene an appeals committee consisting of three college of science faculty to consider the appeal. In the case of a negative decision, the student may appeal to the university's Academic Disqualification & Reinstatement Review Committee. After review of the petition, the Academic Disqualification & Reinstatement Review Committee will make their recommendation to the Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies to confirm or rescind such action.

#### 4. Reinstatement:

- a. A College of Science student may be reinstated to the major by petition only at the discretion of the Major Department. Before reinstatement the student, along with the College of Science academic advisor, will be required to design a study plan of specified courses the student must pass with a "C" or better before the student will be reinstated. Even upon completion of the study plan, students will be reinstated in good standing in the major only if the major GPA is 2.0 or above and the student is in good academic standing in the university. The study plan must be approved by the student's College of Science academic advisor and the Chair of the department *before* the student enrolls in the courses. Students will be reinstated to the major upon successful completion of the study plan if their Major GPA returns them to good standing in the Major. Students that successfully complete their study plan can be reinstated into the major on probation if their Major GPA is below a 2.0 with approval from the Associate Dean of the College.
- b. If the student is also disqualified from the University, s/he must follow University guidelines to petition for reinstatement as well as readmission or reactivation to the University, and must also follow these College guidelines for reinstatement to the Major.