

Why a Low GPA is a Problem, Why it  
Might be Low, and How to Raise it.



# Why is a Low GPA a Problem?

1. Risk of Being Placed on Academic Probation and/or Suspension.
2. Risk of Becoming Ineligible for Further Financial Aid.
3. Risk of Not Qualifying for Admission to Certain Professional Programs.



# Academic Probation/Suspension

- Students whose overall GPA is below 2.0 risk being placed on academic **probation**. The risk increases the further below 2.0 the GPA descends (see page 57 of current catalog).
- Students on **probation** can continue to take classes, but they remain on probation until they have earned an overall GPA of at least 2.0.
- Students on **probation** lose financial aid.

# Academic Probation/Suspension

- To graduate from the university, a student must have an overall GPA of at least 2.0. Thus, students on **probation** cannot graduate.
- Students who are on **probation** and who earn less than 2.0 GPA in a given semester are **suspended** from the university.
- Students who are *not* on probation and who have 12 or more GPA credit hours are **suspended** if their overall GPA is less than 1.0.

# Academic Probation/Suspension

- Students on a first **suspension** are not permitted to enroll until after the expiration of one full semester—unless they are readmitted through the First Drop Program.
- Students on a second **suspension** cannot enroll until after the expiration of a full calendar year.
- Students readmitted after being on **suspension** remain on probation until they have achieved an overall GPA of at least 2.0.

# Financial Aid Eligibility

To continue to receive **financial aid**, students must

- maintain an overall GPA of at least 2.0;
- earn at least **75%** of the total hours attempted during the combined fall and spring semesters *or*, if attempting more than 24 hours, earn at least 18 of the total number of attempted hours (withdrawals count as attempted hours); see table in next slide.
- not attempt more than **150%** of the total number of hours required for degree completion (e.g. ADN degree requires 72 hrs; therefore, students who attempt more than 108 hrs lose financial aid).

Total Hours Attempted (Fall & Spring)	Total Hours to be Earned
24+	18
23	17
22	17
21	16
20	15
19	14
18	14
17	13
16	12
15	11
14	11
13	10
12	9
11	8
10	8
9	7
8	6
7	5
6	5
5	4
4	3
3	2
2	2
1	1

# GPA Admission Requirements

- Admission to the Associate of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science requires an overall college GPA of at least 2.0.
- Admission to the Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology requires an overall college GPA of at least 2.3.
- Admission to the Associate of Science in Nursing requires an overall college GPA of at least 2.5.
- Admission to the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education requires an overall college GPA of at least 2.5.

Online GPA Calculator that shows what is required to raise current overall GPA to desired overall GPA. Can be accessed at <http://www.sis.umd.edu/gpacalc/java.html>.

Current Total Credits

Current GPA

Desired GPA

Calculate GPA

12 credits with a 4.0 GPA
13 credits with a 3.9 GPA
14 credits with a 3.8 GPA
16 credits with a 3.7 GPA
17 credits with a 3.6 GPA
19 credits with a 3.5 GPA
21 credits with a 3.4 GPA
23 credits with a 3.3 GPA
26 credits with a 3.2 GPA
31 credits with a 3.1 GPA
37 credits with a 3.0 GPA
46 credits with a 2.9 GPA
61 credits with a 2.8 GPA
91 credits with a 2.7 GPA

# Possible Reasons for Low GPA

- You may be enrolled in a degree program that doesn't match your interests and your strengths.
- Revisit—perhaps with the help of your advisor--the reasons why you enrolled in that program in the first place. Do the reasons still seem valid or do they now seem unconvincing?
- Explore other options with your advisor and remember that any degree automatically gives you a clear advantage in the employment arena.
- Visit Student Services and try the Discover program—an online and interactive career information and guidance system.

# Possible Reasons for Low GPA

- You may be having difficulty with particular courses; continually retaking and failing the same course can obviously lower your overall GPA.
- Seek out the resources that can help you improve your performance in that subject—tutoring, the Writing Center, your teacher.
- Perhaps retake the course during a semester when you have a less onerous schedule.

# Possible Reasons for Low GPA

- You may be unfamiliar with important university policies or procedures (.e.g., the deadlines for withdrawing from courses or for resigning from the university).
- Make sure you have a copy of the university catalog and get into the habit of referring to it.
- Consider taking USTY 1001 (University Studies).
- Check your LSUA e-mail regularly.

# Possible Reasons for Low GPA

- You may not have developed the kind of study skills and time management skills necessary for success in college.
- Talk to your advisor about how you might go about developing these skills.
- Consider taking USTY 1001 (University Studies) or STSK 0006 (Study Skills).
- Join a study group and learn from other students.

# Possible Reasons for Low GPA

- You may lack the motivation necessary for success in your courses.
- Become more connected to the campus by joining a student organization, by participating in campus events, by getting to know your teachers and other people on campus who can provide you with support and encouragement.

# Possible Reasons for Low GPA

- You may not have achieved the right balance between school responsibilities and work and/or family responsibilities.
- Talk to your advisor about how you might achieve a better balance of your various responsibilities.
- Consider visiting one of the professional counselors in student services.

# Resources Available to You at LSUA

- Your teachers
- Your academic advisor
- Student Services (provides personal counseling, career guidance, tutoring, disability services).
- The Writing Center (located in the library)
- Student Organizations (listed on pages 65-66 of the catalog)
- University Catalog and Student Handbook