

Recommendation for Academic Dismissal for Undergraduate Students for Academic Year 2020-2021

BACKGROUND

Due to spring 2020 semester disruption from COVID-19, the Provost's Office did not dismiss any undergraduate students from the university.

- Students who would have been subject to [academic dismissal](#) at the end of spring 2020 were, instead, placed/continued on academic probation and received communication from the university and outreach from their advising unit.
- Students who were not subject to dismissal but would have been placed on [academic probation](#) at the end of spring 2020 were not placed on probation and did not receive communication regarding probation.

RECOMMENDATION

After discussions with undergraduate advising deans and directors from all the colleges, the following recommendations are proposed for academic year 2020-2021:

Fall 2020 Semester:

- New and continuing students who meet the conditions for [academic dismissal](#) at the end of fall 2020 will be placed/continued on academic probation and sent communication regarding their current situation that is more strongly worded than the standard probation letter.
- New and continuing students who do not meet the conditions for academic dismissal but earn below a 2.000 overall GPA at the end of fall 2020 will be placed on [academic probation](#) and sent the standard probation letter notifying them of their academic standing.

Spring 2021 Semester:

- New students who meet the conditions for [academic dismissal](#) at the end of spring 2021 will be placed on [academic probation](#) and sent communication regarding their current situation that is more strongly worded than the standard probation letter. "New students" are defined as any student who started their first semester at Kent State in spring 2021.
- Continuing students who meet the conditions for [academic dismissal](#) at the end of spring 2021 will be dismissed.
- New and continuing students who do not meet the conditions for academic dismissal but who earn below a 2.000 overall GPA at the end of spring 2021 will be placed on [academic probation](#) and sent the standard probation letter notifying them of their academic standing.

RATIONALE

Unless they were subject to dismissal, undergraduate students with less than a 2.000 overall GPA at the end of spring 2020 did not receive a probation letter. Therefore, it seems unreasonable and inequitable to dismiss them without that prior notification.

This recommendation allows Kent State to ease back into the standard dismissal process for continuing students; those affected will receive notification of probation at the end of fall 2020.

The recommendation also takes grades earned in spring 2020 out of the decision process (whether it would have positively or negatively had an impact on the student's GPA) to align with the principle we followed at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to do no harm to our students.