

Academic Action for Fall 2009

Two major actions take place between Fall and Spring semesters: Graduation Action, which graduates students, and Academic Actions, which places students on and takes them off probation, suspension, and dismissal. The following is proposed as a 1-semester pilot.

(1) **Graduation Action** must be taken, but not necessarily during Winter Break. There are a couple relatively small groups who need special handling: (1) Military students, who need their paperwork completed by the end of the last day of finals and can be handled as usual. (2) Miscellaneous exceptions, including those who need graduation verification for job purposes, who can be handled as now, on a case-by-case basis. That said, ideally, it is best for students who have filed for graduation to find out whether they graduated before the beginning of Spring semester, so they can return, if need be, to complete their degrees; therefore, providing notification of graduation should be a priority.

(2) **Academic actions** do not have to be taken for Fall 2009. Reasons supporting this include:

- The current economic situation has resulted in “green” building closures, furloughs for HGEA staff, and possible UHPA furloughs, which have made it difficult to take academic actions in a timely manner.
- The time between semesters is so tight (2 weeks) that it is difficult - and in some cases impossible - to notify suspended and dismissed students in a timely manner (i.e. they may have already booked return flights)
- There appears to be no compelling reason to take academic actions twice a year. Some institutions take action once a year; some take action twice a year. Both have their advantages and disadvantages.
- Canceling actions this semester could serve as a pilot to evaluate the effects of switching to taking actions once a year.

Implementation

1. [ASAP] Notify all impacted advising offices so that they can begin planning:

All school / college advising offices	Student Employment
Financial Aid	International Student Services
Athletics	Study Abroad
Housing	Scholarship offices
Cashiers	National Student Exchange
2. [ASAP] Notify all students, schools, colleges, deans, faculty and staff that academic actions will not take place this semester.
3. [ASAP after #2] Encourage all academic advising offices to take proactive measures to catch students in, or approaching academic difficulty.
4. [ASAP] Request that Records send each school/college a list of students who have 2.5 GPA or under that the schools/colleges can notify the students that they are at risk for academic action and explain the consequences should they not improve their GPA. Also, remind them a) that their GPA will impact financial aid, student employment, practicum /

internships, student visas, etc.; b) that academic actions will be taken at the end of Spring 2010; and c) of the available support services (tutoring, advising, etc.).*

5. [ASAP after grades roll.] Request that Records send each college/school a list of students currently on probation whose end-of-term GPA is above 2.0 so that the colleges / schools can remove them from probation and make them eligible for housing, student employment, etc.
6. [Early Spring 2010] Request that Records send each college/school a list of students whose Fall 2009 semester GPA was <2.0 so that the schools/colleges can notify the students that they are at risk for academic action and explain the consequences should they not improve their GPA. Also, remind them a) that their GPA will impact financial aid, student employment, practicum / internships, student visas, etc.; b) that academic actions will be taken at the end of Spring 2010; and c) of the available support services (tutoring, advising, etc.).
7. At the end of the Spring 2010 semester, AVCUE should analyze detailed statistics regarding the impact of this pilot on each population (those on probation, those who would have been suspended, etc.) to evaluate the process and its impact.

*Some colleges/schools may choose a different GPA cut-off for notification. CTAHR, for example, has said they would like to use 2.0. Colleges/schools can work with Records on parameters for their students.