What is academic standing?

Academic standing is the key mechanism by which a student’s progress in their program is monitored at the conclusion of each term or semester.

The purpose of specifying your academic standing is to alert you and your program authority as early as possible to any problem that may negatively impact your progress.

Academic standing is only calculated for undergraduates and postgraduates. It is not calculated for research and non-award students.

Term 2, 2021 – Rule change due to Greater Sydney Lockdown and COVID-19

For Term 2 2021, failed courses will appear on your official UNSW transcript and will be included in the calculation of both your WAM and academic standing, in line with standard practice.
However, given the continuing uncertainty, students will not be academically Suspended, Excluded or Terminated at the end of Term 2 2021. Students whose Term 2 results would normally have placed them on academic Suspension or Exclusion will instead be given an academic standing level of Provisional Suspension or Provisional Exclusion.

If you have an academic standing level of Provisional Suspension or Provisional Exclusion, you are permitted to continue studying in Term 3 2021, however you must seek academic advice as further fails in Term 3 2021 may result in you being Suspended or Excluded.

How academic standing is calculated

Undergraduate students
All students start with Good standing. If you pass 50% or more of the units attempted, your standing remains as Good.

Academic standing is calculated using the percentage of load passed in the current term/semester as well as your academic standing at the end of the previous term/semester.

Postgraduate students
Academic standing is calculated based on the cumulative number of failures across your postgraduate studies.

Research and non-award students
Academic standing is not calculated for research and non-award students.

When academic standing is calculated

For UNSW Sydney, academic standing is determined at the end of Terms 1, 2 and 3. For UNSW Canberra, academic standing is determined at the end of Semesters 1 and 2.

Results obtained in Summer Term/Semester are included in the calculation of your academic standing for Term/Semester 1.

Academic standing is calculated at the career level (i.e. undergraduate/postgraduate), not at the program level.

To find out how withheld grades affect academic standing, see the Results page.

View your academic standing

Your standing is displayed with your results in myUNSW.

The Results Summary screen in myUNSW allows you to view your results and academic standing for a given term/semester.

During the assessment period, the Results Summary screen only permit you to view results for the most recently completed term/semester.

Your term/semester statistics and academic standing are only available once all results for the term/semester are released.

What the different levels of academic standing mean

Academic standing has many levels. All students start with Good standing but continued poor progress can lead to other standing levels being assigned, each with its own implications for your progress toward completion of your program.
Refer to the relevant information below to find out more about academic standing.

- Undergraduate academic standing levels
- Postgraduate academic standing levels

**Support and how to appeal**

The pages below direct you to support services and explain the appeals process for Suspension and Exclusion levels.

**Academic advising**

With early intervention from an academic advisor, and assistance from student support services, the more serious consequences of continued poor performance can be prevented.

**How to appeal**

Find out how you can appeal against Suspension or Exclusion.