Academic standing indicates your current progress toward completion of your program. UNSW has defined 8 categories of academic standing for undergraduate students. Each category has an impact on progression (enrolment) in a program.

This page describes what each level of academic standing means for undergraduate students. In all cases your standing at the end of the current semester is determined using your standing at the end of the previous semester, together with your academic achievement for the current semester. Any results obtained in the Summer Term will be included in the calculation of your academic standing for Semester One.

This page also tells you how your achievements in the following semester will affect your standing.

Please be aware that grades of PW (Permitted Withdrawal) and AW (Academic Withdrawal) are treated as fail grades when calculating academic standing.

**Quick reference guide**

Here you can find a quick reference guide to the rules for undergraduate academic standing.

If you have difficulty using the tables, please refer to the below ‘Guide to your academic standing’ or see the [PDF version](#) of this page.

**Rules for Semester 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic standing in previous semester</th>
<th>Nil progress (more than 6 UOC attempted &amp; 0 UOC passed)</th>
<th>Poor progress (more than 6 UOC attempted &amp; 50% or less passed)</th>
<th>Satisfactory progress (more than 6 UOC attempted &amp; more than 50% passed)</th>
<th>6 UOC or less attempted &amp; all or some passed</th>
<th>6 UOC or less attempted &amp; 0 UOC passed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Referral</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Referral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referral</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Referral</td>
<td>Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Provisional Suspension</td>
<td>Provisional Suspension</td>
<td>Referral</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Provisional Suspension</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Rules for Semester 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic standing in previous semester</th>
<th>Nil progress (more than 6 UOC attempted &amp; 0 UOC passed)</th>
<th>Poor progress (more than 6 UOC attempted &amp; 50% or less passed)</th>
<th>Satisfactory progress (more than 6 UOC attempted &amp; more than 50% passed)</th>
<th>6 UOC or less attempted &amp; all or some passed</th>
<th>6 UOC or less attempted &amp; 0 passed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Referral</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Referral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referral</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Referral</td>
<td>Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
<td>Referral</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension</td>
<td>Exclusion</td>
<td>Exclusion</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Exclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusion</td>
<td>Exclusion</td>
<td>Exclusion</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Exclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional Suspension</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
<td>Referral</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional Exclusion</td>
<td>Exclusion</td>
<td>Exclusion</td>
<td>Referral</td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Exclusion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example:** If your academic standing was 'Referral' in your previous semester of study, and in the following semester you enrol in more than 6 (UOC) units of credit but only pass 50% (or less), then your academic standing would be 'Probation'.

---

**Guide to your academic standing**

Here you can find out what needs to happen if your academic standing level is:

**GOOD**

You are making good progress. UNSW has no concerns.
What happens next semester?

- If you enrol in **more than 6** units of credit in the next semester and pass **more than half** of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will remain GOOD.
- If you enrol in **more than 6** units of credit in the next semester and pass **only half or less than half** of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will become REFERRAL.
- If you enrol in **more than 6** units of credit in the next semester and pass **none** of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will become PROBATION.
- If you enrol in **6 units of credit or less** in the next semester and pass **all or some** of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will remain as GOOD.
- If you enrol in **6 units of credit or less** in the next semester and do not pass any of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will become REFERRAL.

**REFERRAL**

UNSW is concerned about your progress.

What happens now?

You **must** consult your Academic Advisor. We also strongly encourage you to contact these support services for advice on ways to enhance your academic performance.

What happens next semester?

- Your enrolment next semester is subject to the approval of your Academic Advisor, and you must not finalise your enrolment without contacting them. The courses you are currently enrolled in for the next semester may not be appropriate and you may not be permitted to remain enrolled in some courses.
- If you enrol in **more than 6** units of credit in the next semester and pass **more than half** of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will revert to GOOD.
- If you enrol in **more than 6** units of credit in the next semester and pass **only half or less than half** of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will become PROBATION.
- If you enrol in **more than 6** units of credit in the next semester and pass **none** of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will become PROBATION.
- If you enrol in **6 units of credit or less** in the next semester and pass **all or some** of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will remain as REFERRAL.
- If you enrol in **6 units of credit or less** in the next semester and do not pass any of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will become PROBATION.

**PROBATION**

UNSW is very concerned about your progress.

What happens now?

You **must** consult your Academic Advisor. We also strongly encourage you to contact these support services for advice on ways to enhance your academic performance.

What happens next semester?

- Your enrolment next semester is subject to the approval of your Academic Advisor and you must not finalise your enrolment without contacting them. The courses you are currently enrolled in for the next semester may not be appropriate and you may not be permitted to remain enrolled in some courses.
- If you enrol in **more than 6** units of credit in the next semester and pass **more than half** of the attempted load, your academic standing in that semester will revert to REFERRAL.
- If you enrol in **more than 6** units of credit in the next semester and pass **only half or less than half** of the attempted load, your academic standing will become PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION (if Semester 1) or
SUSPENSION (if Semester 2).

- If you enrol in **more than 6** units of credit in the next semester and pass **none** of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will become **PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION** (if Semester 1) or **SUSPENSION** (if Semester 2).
- If you enrol in **6 units of credit or less** in the next semester and pass **all or some** of the attempted load, your academic standing will remain as **PROBATION**.
- If you enrol in **6 units of credit or less** in the next semester and **do not pass any** of the attempted load, your academic standing will become **PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION** (if Semester 1) or **SUSPENSION** (if Semester 2).

**PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION (Semester 1 only)**

UNSW is extremely concerned about your progress and believes that unless you address the issues that are impeding your academic progress, you will be suspended next semester.

UNSW does not formally exclude or suspend students at the end of Semester 1. However, we still need to identify students at risk of failure, so use ‘provisional suspension’ and ‘provisional exclusion’. These levels are treated similarly to Probation when calculating standing for future semesters.

**What happens now?**

You **must** consult your Academic Advisor. We also strongly encourage you to contact these **support services** for advice on ways to enhance your academic performance.

**What happens next semester?**

- Your enrolment next semester is subject to the approval of your Academic Advisor and you must not finalise your enrolment without contacting them. The courses you are currently enrolled in for the next semester may not be appropriate and you may not be permitted to remain enrolled in some courses.
- If you enrol in **more than 6** units of credit in the next semester and pass **more than half** of the attempted load, your academic standing in that semester will revert to **REFERRAL**.
- If you enrol in **more than 6** units of credit in the next semester and pass **only half, or less than half** of the attempted load, your academic standing will remain as **PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION** (if Semester 1) or become **SUSPENSION** (if Semester 2).
- If you enrol in **more than 6** units of credit in the next semester and pass **none** of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will remain as **PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION** (if Semester 1) or become **SUSPENSION** (if Semester 2).
- If you enrol in **6 units of credit or less** in the next semester and pass **all or some** of the attempted load, your academic standing will become **PROBATION**.
- If you enrol in **6 units of credit or less** in the next semester and **do not pass any** of the attempted load, your academic standing will remain as **PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION** (if Semester 1) or will become **SUSPENSION** (if Semester 2).

**PROVISIONAL EXCLUSION (Semester 1 only)**

UNSW is extremely concerned about your progress and believes that unless you address the issues that are impeding your academic progress you will be excluded next semester. You have previously reached an academic standing level of **SUSPENSION**, which is why your academic standing level is now **PROVISIONAL EXCLUSION**.

UNSW does not formally exclude or suspend students at the end of Semester 1. However, we still need to identify students at risk of failure, so use ‘provisional suspension’ and ‘provisional exclusion’. These levels are treated similarly to Probation when calculating standing for future semesters.

**What happens now?**

You **must** consult your Academic Advisor. We also strongly encourage you to contact these **support services** for advice on ways to enhance your academic performance.

**What happens next semester?**
Your enrolment next semester is subject to the approval of your Academic Advisor and you must not finalise your enrolment without contacting them. The courses you are currently enrolled in for the next semester may not be appropriate and you may not be permitted to remain enrolled in some courses.

- If you enrol in more than 6 units of credit in the next semester and pass more than half of the attempted load, your academic standing in that semester will revert to REFERRAL.
- If you enrol in more than 6 units of credit in the next semester and pass only half, or less than half of the attempted load, your academic standing will remain as PROVISIONAL EXCLUSION (if Semester 1) or become EXCLUSION (if Semester 2).
- If you enrol in more than 6 units of credit in the next semester and pass none of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will remain as PROVISIONAL EXCLUSION (if Semester 1) or become EXCLUSION (if Semester 2).
- If you enrol in 6 units of credit or less in the next semester and pass all or some of the attempted load, your academic standing will become PROBATION.
- If you enrol in 6 units of credit or less in the next semester and do not pass any of the attempted load, your academic standing will remain on PROVISIONAL EXCLUSION (if Semester 1) or become EXCLUSION (if Semester 2).

**SUSPENSION (Semester 2 only)**

UNSW is extremely concerned about your progress and believes that a break in your studies is required in order to deal with the issues and problems that are impeding your academic progress.

**Re-admission**

SUSPENSION means that you are not permitted to re-enrol for a period of not less than one academic year, but you have automatic right of re-admission to the same program. However, if after the period of suspension you wish to undertake a program other than the one you were enrolled in, you will have to re-apply for admission in the usual manner. See Admissions information.

**Can I study a different program if suspended?**

Academic standing is determined at the career level (i.e. undergraduate or postgraduate), rather than at the program level. As a result, if you are suspended from one program you cannot apply to study another program during the period of suspension.

**What happens next?**

Following your return from SUSPENSION:

- If you enrol in more than 6 units of credit and pass more than half of the attempted load, your academic standing will become PROBATION.
- If you enrol in more than 6 units of credit and pass only half, or less than half of the attempted load, your academic standing will become PROVISIONAL EXCLUSION (if Semester 1) or EXCLUSION (if Semester 2).
- If you enrol in more than 6 units of credit in the next semester and pass none of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will become PROVISIONAL EXCLUSION (if Semester 1) or EXCLUSION (if Semester 2).
- If you enrol in 6 units of credit or less and pass all or some of the attempted load, your academic standing will become PROBATION.
- If you enrol in 6 units of credit or less and do not pass any of the attempted load, your standing will become PROVISIONAL EXCLUSION (if Semester 1) or EXCLUSION (if Semester 2).

**Do you want to appeal?**

- [How to appeal suspension or exclusion](#)

**EXCLUSION (Semester 2 only)**
UNSW has serious concerns about your ability to complete your program. You have previously been assigned an academic standing level of SUSPENSION, which is why your academic standing level is now EXCLUSION.

What happens next?

You are excluded from the University for not less than 2 academic years (4 standard semesters) and you must re-apply for re-admission at the end of the exclusion period. See Admissions information.

Can I study a different program if excluded?

Academic standing is determined at the career level (i.e. undergraduate or postgraduate), rather than at the program level. As a result, if you are excluded from one program you cannot apply to study another program during the period of exclusion.

On re-admission

If you are re-admitted to UNSW following your period of exclusion:

- If you enrol in more than 6 units of credit and pass more than half of the attempted load, your academic standing will become PROBATION.
- If you enrol in more than 6 units of credit and pass only half or less than half of the attempted load, your academic standing will become PROVISIONAL EXCLUSION (if Semester 1) or EXCLUSION (if Semester 2).
- If you enrol in more than 6 units of credit and pass none of the attempted load, your academic standing at the end of that semester will become PROVISIONAL EXCLUSION (if Semester 1) or EXCLUSION (if Semester 2).
- If you enrol in 6 units of credit or less and pass all or some of the attempted load, your academic standing will become PROBATION.
- If you enrol in 6 units of credit or less and do not pass any of the attempted load, your academic standing will become PROVISIONAL EXCLUSION (if Semester 1) or EXCLUSION (if Semester 2).

Do you want to appeal?

- How to appeal suspension or exclusion

PENDING

A standing of PENDING means that your academic standing cannot be calculated because of late or withheld results. Academic standing is re-calculated on a regular basis - shortly after your results are finalised, your academic standing will be adjusted accordingly.

If you still have unfinalised grades (WD, WC and LE) on the date when academic standing is finalised (approximately 2 months after the official release of results), these grades will be converted to NC (Not Completed) and treated as failures when your academic standing is finalised for the semester.

How to improve your academic performance

These support services can help you improve your academic standing.
Educational support advisors
For issues with academic and educational performance

Learning Centre
For all your referencing, writing and academic skills support

NavigateMe
Want to improve your grades? Try NavigateMe