

MANDATORY ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES POLICY

The College of Law is committed to the academic success of every student. This Mandatory Academic Support Services Policy (the “Academic Support Policy”) is designed to provide academic and other types of counseling to students whose performance suggests that they might benefit from such services and who might be hesitant to seek assistance. The faculty believes that providing clear information about the availability of academic support resources will help students address academic challenges promptly and effectively.

The following Academic Support Policy will apply to all J.D. students who have matriculated in the College of Law in or after Fall 2020.

A. First Year Students

A first year student must meet with the Academic Dean or designee to discuss the availability of academic support services at the College of Law when, at the conclusion of the first or second semester, the student has:

- (i) a grade point average below 3.0; or
- (ii) received one or more grades of D+, D, or D- within one semester; or
- (iii) at the completion of the first year, has one or more “incomplete” grades (grades of “I”).

In addition to the mandatory meeting, first year students with a cumulative grade point average below 2.8 at the conclusion of their second semester may register for classes for the following term (including summer) only if the Academic Dean approves their course schedules.

Subject to availability, first year students with a cumulative grade point average below 2.8 at the conclusion of their second semester will be required to take, in the fall or spring of their second year, an upper-level academic support course designed to enhance analytic, writing, and test-taking skills. The Academic Dean, at their discretion, may determine whether compelling circumstances justify relieving a student from this requirement.

B. Upper-Level Students

An upper-level student must meet with the Academic Dean or designee to discuss the availability of academic support services at the College of Law if the student has:

- (i) a cumulative grade point average below 3.0 at the end of any semester; or
- (ii) two or more incompletes at the conclusion of the third, fourth, or fifth semester.

In addition to the mandatory meeting, upper-level students with a cumulative grade point average below 2.8 at the conclusion of any semester may register for classes for the following term (including summer) only if the Academic Dean approves their course schedule.

Subject to availability, upper-level students entering their final year of law school with a cumulative grade point average below 2.8 will be required to take the “Topics in Florida Practice” and “Topics II: MBE” courses if they plan to take the Florida Bar Examination, or the “Topics II: MBE” course if they plan to take a different bar examination. The credits for successful completion of the “Topics in Florida Practice” and “Topics II: MBE” courses, or any other bar preparation course approved by the Curriculum Committee, will count as “graded hours” for purposes of the College of Law graduation requirements. The Academic Dean, at their discretion, may determine whether compelling circumstances justify relieving a student from this requirement.

C. All Students Who Receive a Grade of F

Students who receive any failing grades (grades of “F”) during any semester at the College of Law must meet with the Academic Dean or designee to discuss the availability of academic support services.

Students in categories A, B, and C above who enrolled in the College of Law prior to the Fall of 2020 are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the academic advising and coaching services, courses, and skill-building activities designed to support learning and bar success.

Procedure

1. The Academic Dean or designee will send a notice (the “Notice”) to students in category A, B or C above to inform them that their academic performance makes them subject to the Academic Support Policy. The Notice will be sent to students via their FSU email accounts at the earliest feasible time after grades post to transcripts. The Notice will include a copy of this Academic Support Policy.
2. The Notice will inform students that they must contact the Academic Dean or designee to schedule a mandatory meeting to discuss the availability of academic support services at the law school, and a curricular plan to improve their academic performance. The Notice will specify a deadline by which the student must contact the Academic Dean or designee to schedule the mandatory meeting.
3. Students who fail to respond to the Notice within the specified reply deadline, or who fail to attend the requisite meeting with the Academic Dean or designee, will have a hold placed on their registration for the following term (including summer). Registration abilities may be reinstated by the Academic Dean.
6. Should the Academic Dean decline to reinstate a student’s ability to register for failure to comply with this Academic Support Policy, the student may appeal to the Academic Waiver Committee. The Academic Waiver Committee will process such appeals on an expedited basis.
7. The fact that a student is or has been subject to this Academic Support Policy will not be noted on a student’s official transcript.

8. Students subject to this Academic Support Policy are not on academic probation and are considered in good standing.

9. Compliance with this Academic Support Policy does not exempt a student from the College of Law rules governing good standing, dismissal, and readmission.