



# Priorities for Students Experiencing Academic Difficulty

## Start of the Quarter Priorities

- **Assess your grade point average deficit.** The greater your negative balance, the more difficult it will be for you to clear probationary status.
- **Develop a plan to return you to Good Academic Standing.** A careful review of your individual situation (including understanding the severity of your GPA deficit), carefully selecting courses for the upcoming quarter, and connecting with available resources will improve your ability to create a successful plan of action to clear your warning or probationary status.
- **Assess the causes and/or contributing factors to unsuccessful academic performance.** Did study techniques, time management, course load, or other factors such as illness or personal issues play a part in poor academic performance?
- **Re-evaluate your overall academic plan.** Academic probation sometimes calls into question some of the choices you have made while in college. Some students may have over committed themselves to extracurricular activities. For others, the original academic plan may have proven to be uninteresting and unfulfilling. In either case, a reassessment of your overall goals and ambitions may be necessary to improve academic performance.
- **Approach future quarters in a proactive way to avoid warning or probationary status in the future.** For probationary students especially, it will be important to aim for generally improved and consistent academic performance in the future. This will require that you proactively approach each and every future quarter with careful program planning and create a strong support network both academic and personal.

## Tips for a Successful Quarter

- Know the specific deadlines, policies, and procedures of the department and University and plan out your quarter accordingly.
- Prioritize and organize your study and personal time into daily and weekly patterns of effectiveness. Maintain regular study hours and establish study environments in order to be productive throughout the entire quarter.
- Develop timelines and keep quarter, monthly and weekly calendars for dates when course assignments are due. Plan and prepare for exams and papers in advance.

## Priorities for Students Experiencing Academic Difficulty, continued

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- Go to office hours, ask questions, and talk with instructors to make the course material more alive.
- Anticipate, preview and review continuously in your courses. When you get exams and papers back discuss them thoroughly with your instructor or TA. Studying for final examinations begins now!
- Develop a network of resources. Make a list of phone numbers and email addresses of your faculty, TA's, advisers, tutors and at least 1 other student from each class.
- Communicate, collaborate and correspond with your family and friends as well as your campus support network.
- Bookmark the DU home page and explore the web sites of campus organizations that may be able to help you achieve your academic goals.
- Find at least one mentor each quarter (a faculty member, TA, staff member, or experienced peer) and develop those relationships throughout your years at DU.

Adapted from the University of Berkeley