

MOTION: Exceptions to Suspension
REFERRED BY: Faculty Senate Executive Council

MOTION

The Faculty Senate supports the motion and *Undergraduate Catalog* changes approved by the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee regarding exceptions to suspension, attached on the following page.

RATIONALE

As the voice of faculty, and consistent with University internal governance policies, the Faculty Senate is provided the opportunity to review and comment upon actions of the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

Motion re: Exceptions to Suspension

Radford University shall make explicit that it does not make exceptions to suspension for continuing students.

Rationale:

Unless there was clear evidence that RU erred by miscommunicating with the student in some way, RU has not offered exceptions to suspension for continuing students for at least five years. (Some new students are offered exceptions in the contracted “SORTS” program.) However, there is no clear indication in the catalog that we do not offer exceptions to suspension. As a result, students who inquire about exceptions to suspension are referred by the Registrar’s Office—which sends suspension notifications—to college advising centers, where exception petitions are initiated. This raises students’ hopes that exceptions to suspension will be granted, and it puts the advising staff or the dean’s office in the uncomfortable and unnecessary position of being forced to give bad news to students.

Since the *de facto* situation is that we do not offer exceptions to suspension, we should state that in the catalog.

Catalog Revisions

(page 70):

CONTINUING STUDENT POLICY

All academic suspensions for continuing students who are enrolled during one or more terms during the year (fall through summer) become effective at the end of the last summer session, regardless of the student’s enrollment for that specific term. Academic suspension occurs when such students have attempted a minimum of 30 credits at Radford University and have less than a 2.0 cumulative GPA on all courses taken at Radford University.

A continuing student will be informed of his or her impending academic suspension (effective at the end of the last summer session) at the conclusion of any term if the student has less than a 2.0 cumulative GPA and has attempted 30 or more credit hours.

No exceptions to the academic suspension policy will be made for continuing students.

(Page 79)

EXCEPTION TO ACADEMIC POLICY

The *Radford University Undergraduate Catalog* is the basic authority for academic requirements at Radford University. All students are expected to follow the catalog in the pursuit of their degrees. On occasion, extraordinary circumstances may, however, justify minor departures from the catalog requirements. Students who believe their situation warrants a deviation from academic policy may petition for an exception. Students should consult with their advising coordinator to explore the feasibility of petitioning for an exception to academic policy.

Undergraduate students who need to petition for an exception to academic policy must fill out the Undergraduate Student Academic Petition form, available in advising centers. The college dean of the petitioning student has the authority to approve or disapprove the student's request for an exception to academic policy upon review of recommendations from the student's academic adviser, department chair and instructor (as appropriate), and – if deemed necessary – in consultation with the Registrar. The dean will submit the form to the Registrar's Office.

There are several academic requirements for which exceptions are never made, even through the academic petition process: the minimum grade point average (2.000) to graduate; the minimum number of semester hours (120) to graduate; the minimum number of semesters hours (45) earned at Radford University to graduate (unless the student is graduating under the provisions of an articulation agreement between RU and a Virginia Community college in which the possibility of graduating with fewer than 45 RU hours is clearly stipulated); the number of class withdrawals (5) a student may use; the number of repeats (3) permitted; **and** the number of earned credits (60) at Radford needed to qualify for Latin Honors.

In addition, no exceptions to the academic suspension policy will be made for continuing students. ~~In addition~~ **Finally**, students who are dismissed from the University for academic reasons (see "Terms of Suspension," p. 70) may not petition for readmission.