

Academic Standards

Standards of Scholarship

Standards of scholarship at Sacramento City College depend upon the objectives, nature, and content of the courses. Individual progress is a basic consideration, and the development of each student in the light of his or her needs and aptitudes is the major concern of the college. If minimum standards of scholarship are not attained, failure will result. In no case is credit given or are grades awarded merely on the basis of attendance. The evaluation of student performance is based on periodic examinations, class reports, term papers, and other evidence of scholarship. Each instructor is responsible for the evaluation methods employed in his or her courses. Students may not enroll for a class for which an incomplete was received.

Academic Expectations

Sacramento City College endorses an open door policy where students are welcome to attend regardless of previous educational background and where the college faculty and staff are committed to the success of students. It is the expectation of the college that students take responsibility for their learning as evidenced by their actions in class, on campus, and in the preparation for their classes. The college fully expects students to make measurable progress and meet the objectives of each course in which they are enrolled with or without accommodations for a verified disability. Both academic probation and progress probation policies are outlined in the catalog.

With certain exceptions, students are entitled to attempt a maximum of 30 remedial or developmental units so that they have an opportunity to develop the skills to succeed in college level work. Students are ultimately expected to succeed in associate degree level courses and/or meet their educational objectives.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all sessions of classes in which they are enrolled. Students who fail to attend the first session of a class may be dropped and will lose their seat in class. Any student with excessive absences may also be dropped from the class.

Athletics

Students who participate in intercollegiate athletics must meet the eligibility requirements for the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) and Big 8 Conference, which include issues such as current academic enrollment, satisfactory academic progress, academic standing, previous seasons of college competition, transfer history, and legal residence.

Initial eligibility requires a student athlete to be currently and actively enrolled in a minimum of 12 units that are consistent with his/her educational plan. Continuing eligibility includes the requirement that a student athlete maintain a 2.0 grade point average and complete a minimum 24 units since the previous season of competition.

The nature of athletic eligibility requirements is very complex and athletes are advised to become thoroughly familiar with them in order to avoid loss of eligibility. Information on these requirements should be obtained by interested students from the appropriate coach or athletic academic counselor.

Units of Work

College work is measured in terms of the semester "unit." In lecture courses, one hour in the classroom and two hours of study preparation per week constitute a unit of work. In the laboratory, three hours in the classroom per week with no outside study constitute one unit of work. The number of units of credit is listed with each course description.

Students will notice that some courses have "variable" units (1-2, .5-4, or 1-3 units). Some courses may be taken more than once (two to four times each) provided there is no duplication of topics. For example, MUIVI 315 is offered for 1-2 units and may be taken twice.

Basic Skills Unit Limitation

The Board of Governors adopted regulations beginning July 1, 1990, limiting the number of developmental and/or basic skills course units to 30. These courses are usually numbered in the 1-99 series. Students may petition for a waiver of the 30-unit limitation.

Grades and Grade Point Averages

The grading standards with their grade point equivalents are as follows:

A	Excellent - 4 grade points per unit
B	Good - 3 grade points per unit
C	Satisfactory - 2 grade points per unit
D	Passing, less than satisfactory - 1 grade point per unit
F	Failing - 0 grade points, no units earned
P	Pass (C or better) - Not computed in GPA (formerly CR)
NP	No Pass (less than C) - Not computed in GPA, but affects progress, probation, and dismissal (formerly NC)
I	Incomplete - Not computed in GPA, but affects progress, probation, and dismissal
IP	In Progress - Course transcends semester limitation
RD	Report Delayed
W	Withdrawal - Not computed in GPA, but affects progress, probation, and dismissal
MW	Military Withdrawal

Grade Reports

Once during each semester all students may be given progress grade reports, which are indicators of the level of work they are achieving in each class as of that date. These reports are only an estimate of the student's work at the time, and do not in any way guarantee that these will be the final grades. If the student's work is unsatisfactory at this time, he/she should consult with instructors to determine the cause of their difficulty and the steps to be taken to improve their performance. Final grade reports are issued after the end of each semester and are available on eServices.

Good Standing

In determining a student's eligibility to acquire or remain in good standing and attendance at a Los Rios College, both quality of performance and progress toward completion of objectives are considered. A student who attempts 12 or more semester units and earns a 2.0 GPA on a 4-point grading scale and who completes more than 50% of all attempted units merits a good standing relationship with the college.

Grades of Incomplete

An incomplete grade (I) may be assigned by the instructor when, in the judgment of the instructor, the student is unable to complete the requirements of a course because of unforeseeable emergency and justifiable reasons at the end of the semester. To receive credit for the course, the incomplete work must be finished no later than one year from the end of the semester in which it was assigned. A final grade will be assigned when the work stipulated has been completed and evaluated or when the time limit for completing the work has elapsed. A student may petition for a time extension due to unusual circumstances. A student may not re-enroll in a course for the purpose of completing an incomplete.

Academic Renewal Policy

Academic Renewal Without Course Repetition

A student may petition to have previous substandard work, (D's or F's), earned at Sacramento City College discounted. Courses and grades which no longer reflect a student's current educational objective and current level of academic success may upon petition be discounted in the computation of the grade point average. The following conditions must apply:

1. A minimum of 12 consecutive months shall have elapsed since the end of the semester or summer session in which the work to be alleviated was recorded; and a minimum of twelve (12) semester units (or its equivalent) with a grade of C or Credit/Pass or better shall have been attained. The coursework must have been completed at a regionally accredited college.
2. Current educational objectives must be discussed with a counselor and the counselor's recommendation must be included on the petition.
3. No more than 30 units of substandard grades may be discounted.
4. Under no circumstances may course work be discounted if it was used to fulfill requirements for a degree or certificate that has been granted.
5. All grades remain on the permanent record and transcript of grades. However, a proper notation on the transcript will indicate the specific grades that were discounted from the grade point average.
6. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Dean of Enrollment Services.
7. Once elected, the academic renewal cannot be reversed.
8. Academic Renewal is not intended for courses that are required and/or will be repeated.

Academic renewal petitions are available at Admissions and Records or online.

Scholastic Honors

Honors may be earned by students enrolled in 12 units or more for the semester. Nine (9) of these units must be graded on a letter basis exclusive of Pass (P). Students will be placed on the President's Honor Roll if they earn a grade point average of at least 3.0. If they earn a grade point average of 3.5 or better, they will be named for Highest Honors.

Honors at Graduation

Students who maintain a high scholarship average are eligible for honors at graduation. Students who maintain a scholarship average of 3.5 or better are eligible for graduation "with great distinction"; students who maintain a scholarship average of 3.0 or better are eligible for graduation "with distinction." The published lists of students are compiled from the data available at time of publication and may be subject to subsequent revision. Grade point averages from the other colleges are used in the computation of scholastic honors.

The Distinguished Service Award

Since 1931, it has been the custom of the college to select from the graduating class two students who have contributed outstanding service to the college. These students will be recognized during commencement and have their names engraved on the honor plaque located in the college's archway. A committee appointed by the college President makes the selection.

Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society for the two-year college. It offers recognition of academic excellence, scholarships, career placement resources, leadership development, and service opportunities. It is the only two-year college honor society whose members are automatically nominated for the national dean's list. Students who join Beta Eta Psi, SCC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, automatically receive the designation "Phi Theta Kappa Member" on their official transcripts.

Phi Theta Kappa membership is based on academic achievement. Students must be enrolled in at least .5 unit of coursework in a regionally accredited institution offering an associate degree program, must have completed a minimum of 12 units of course work leading to an associate degree or transfer, must have a 3.5 grade point average, and must enjoy full rights of citizenship in the U.S. or in the student's home country.

After induction, members must maintain a 3.0 GPA. Every member of Phi Theta Kappa at SCC is automatically a member of the Honors Club; however, members of Phi Theta Kappa must apply to the Honors Program separately to take Honors courses and to be eligible for the "Honors Scholar" designation on their transcripts.

Probation

There are two types of probation: academic and progress.

Academic Probation

A student who has attempted at least 12 units is placed on Academic Probation if the student has earned a grade point average below 2.0 in all units that were graded.

Progress Probation

A student who has attempted at least 12 semester units is placed on Progress Probation when the percentage of all units in which a student has enrolled and for which entries of "W," "I," and "NP" are recorded reaches or exceeds 50 percent.

Unit Limitation. A student on either academic or progress probation may be limited to 12 units plus a physical education/kinesiology activity course or to a maximum load recommended by the student's counselor.

Removal from Probation. A student on Academic Probation is removed from probation and acquires good standing when the student's cumulative grade point average is 2.0 or higher. A student on Progress Probation is removed from probation and placed in good standing status when the percentage of units with entries of "W," "I," and "NP" drops below 50 percent.

Computations

$$\text{Grade Point Average} = \frac{\text{(Total Grade Points Earned)}}{\text{(Total Units Attempted With a Letter Grade)}}$$

$$\text{Progress Percentage} = \frac{\text{(Total Units With "W," "I" and "NP")}}{\text{(Total Units In Which Enrolled)}}$$

Summer session units and grades will count toward earning probation, removal from probation, or possible dismissal.

Dismissal

Academic Dismissal

A student on Academic Probation is subject to dismissal when the student earns a cumulative grade point average of less than 2.0 in all units attempted in each of three consecutive semesters.

Progress Dismissal

A student on Progress Probation is subject to dismissal if the cumulative percentage of units in which the student has been enrolled for which entries of "W", "I", and "NP" are reported in at least three consecutive semesters reaches or exceeds fifty (50) percent.

Readmission Process

Students who have been dismissed from the college for academic and/or progress dismissal may be readmitted through participation in our Student Success Workshop Process. The process consists of the following.

1. Contact the RISE program to sign up for a workshop.
2. Complete a Petition for Readmission and bring it to the workshop.
3. Attend the workshop and meet with a counselor to develop an educational plan.

Exceptions

Students may petition to the Dean of Enrollment and Student Services, for readmission following dismissal if their dismissal arises from one of the following:

1. Military service obligations.
2. Unusual personal problems that interfered with academic performance.
3. Serious health problems, substantiated by a doctor's statement, which affected academic performance.
4. Disqualified from a four-year college or university to which they were admitted directly from high school.
5. Conditions that their counselors determine may be rectified by a change of curriculum.

Satisfactory Progress

Students readmitted for those reasons listed (see Exceptions) are considered to be making satisfactory progress.

Students readmitted must maintain a satisfactory progress point average to maintain "satisfactory progress" status.

Prerequisites

Sacramento City College intends to guide students into courses in which they will have the greatest chance for academic success. Throughout the catalog, courses are designated as having prerequisites, corequisites, and/or advisories. Following are the definitions for prerequisites, corequisites, and advisories on recommended preparation:

1. "Prerequisite" is a course or skill level that a student must meet prior to enrolling in a course or program.
2. "Corequisite" is a course that a student is required to enroll in at the same time as another course.
3. "Advisory" is a suggested course or skill level that a student is advised to meet prior to enrolling in a course or program.

Counselors and instructors can advise students about which courses to take. Their advice will be based on test scores, transcripts, and students' educational goals.

Courses that are cross-referenced are indicated in parentheses following each of the particular courses. Students should be aware that credit will be given for ONLY one of the cross-referenced courses, but not for both.

In the Class Schedule students will find specific information regarding the days, hours, instructors, and rooms in which classes will be held. Class Schedules are posted online, prior to the start of registration for the next semester.

Prerequisite Challenge Procedure

If you feel that you can meet the requirements, or one of the conditions below exists, you can challenge a prerequisite or corequisite. A Prerequisite Challenge Form can be obtained from any division office. Criteria for challenging a course are as follows:

1. You have knowledge or ability to succeed in the course without the prerequisite.
2. The course that provides the prerequisite is not readily available.
3. You believe that the prerequisite is discriminatory or being applied in a discriminatory manner.

Once you have completed the challenge procedure, your challenge will be reviewed by faculty. You will be informed in writing of the faculty's determination within five working days.

Enrollment Limitation

Enrollment in some college programs and courses may be limited due to health and safety considerations, requirements of a contracting agency, performance auditions or tryouts, and acceptance into a program.

Change of Address or Name

Students should report a change of address immediately to the Admissions and Records Office. The student will be held responsible for any mail sent to the wrong address. Any change in a name as a result of marriage or court action should be reported to the same office with the proper documents to substantiate the change. Students may change their names, addresses and phone numbers through eServices.

Access to Student Records

The Los Rios Board of Trustees, in order to meet the provisions of the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the Education Code, has established policies giving students and parents of dependent students access to certain designated records. A summary of the rights and procedures for access are contained in the Students Rights and Responsibilities section of the Los Rios Community College District Policy manual. Complete copies of the Act, Education Code, and Board policies are available in the offices of the Dean of Enrollment and Student Services (RN 177) and the Vice President of Student Services (RN272).

District Regulation 2265 provides for the release, without student consent, of Student Directory Information, i.e., student's name, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and most recent previous public or private school attended. In addition, federal law provides that representatives of the U.S. Department of Defense shall be provided a student's name, address, and telephone number for recruitment purposes. Students have the right to refuse the release of directory information by submitting a written statement to the Admissions and Records Office.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

College students are both residents of the United States and members of the community; they have the same rights and freedoms as all residents and, as such, they are accountable to Federal and State laws and statutes. In addition, students are also accountable to Los Rios Board policies and individual college rules and regulations.

The President of a college in the district serves as the chief administrator and has been delegated by the Board of Trustees to be responsible for the overall supervision of the operation of the college in conformity with the directives and duties as defined by the district Chancellor/Superintendent and consistent with the policies of the Board of Trustees.

In any conflict related to student discipline, students shall be informed in writing of charges to be brought against them, and they shall have the right to be assisted in their defense by non-legal counsel and/or advisor.

Student Conduct

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Student Rights and Responsibilities and are expected to observe appropriate standards of conduct, order, morality, personal honor, and academic integrity as specified in LRCCD Board Policy and Regulations P/R 2441. Certain activities are not considered appropriate to a college campus, and are prohibited by the Board of Trustees. These include participation in gambling and raffles except when approved by the Vice President of Student Services as a regularly scheduled activity. Smoking is prohibited in all SCC buildings and at least 30 feet from any door. Drinking or being in possession of or under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal substances on college campuses is prohibited without qualification. There is a zero tolerance for violence. The Student Guide covers these procedures in more detail.

Student Grievance Policy

While attending SCC, students sometimes have misunderstandings or experience difficulty with a district or college employee. When students feel they have been treated unfairly and believe that one or more of their student rights have been violated, they can pursue a remedy or solution to the problem through the college's Student Grievance Process. The grievance process is explained in detail in LRCCD Board Policy and Regulations P/R-2412.

The levels and time lines of the Student Grievance Process are as follows:

Informal Grievance,

Level 1-

Student is required to meet with staff member(s) and/or immediate supervisor of the staff member(s) in an attempt to mutually resolve the matter. This discussion must take place within ten (10) days of the alleged incident.

Formal Grievance,

Level 2-

Filing: Within five (5) days of completion of informal procedure and not later than twenty-five (25) days from the date of the alleged incident, student may choose to file a Student Grievance Form.

Where: RN257, Office of the Student Grievance Officer, Julia Jolly, Associate Vice President of Instruction, (916) 558-2386.

Purpose: Student Grievance Officer to determine grievability of the matter.

Time line: Within ten (10) days of filing date, Student Grievance Officer must notify all parties of status of grievability.

- (a) If deemed not grievable, the Student Grievance Officer will notify the student, in writing, that the grievance has been rejected and state the reason(s) why.
- (b) If deemed grievable, a hearing is scheduled.

Level 3-

Hearing: Formal hearing scheduled within ten (10) days following the appointment of a Hearing Officer.

Decision: Within ten (10) days of receipt of hearing, the Hearing Officer will inform all parties, in writing, of his or her decision.

Level 4-

Filing: Within five (5) days of Level 3 decision, either party may appeal the Hearing Officer's decision.

Where: President, RN277.

Decision: Within ten (10) days of receipt of the appeal documents, the President will inform all parties, in writing, of his or her decision and that decision is final.

Students should be aware that an assigned grade by an instructor is not a grievable matter, except as outlined in Education Code 76224(a), which states:

When grades are given for any course of instruction taught in a community college district, the grade given to each student shall be the grade determined by the instructor of the course, and the determination of the student's grade by the instructor in the absence of mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetence shall be final.

Students should remember that it is important to fully understand and comply with the various time lines. As used in these procedures, "days" shall mean calendar days, provided, however, that days during winter break, spring break, and breaks before and after summer sessions shall not be counted as "days."

Student Grievance Officer: Julia Jolly, Associate Vice President of Instruction, (916) 558-2386, RN257.

The Associate Vice President is prepared to assist students in resolving concerns or problems that may be handled through the college's Student Grievance Process and can answer questions students have about any aspect of the process. The Student Grievance Form and LRCCD Board Policy and Regulations P/R-2412 are available through this office.

A copy of the policy and regulations can also be obtained from Dean of Enrollment and Student Services (RN111), Vice President of Student Services (RN272), and Instructional Services (RN257), as well as all Division Dean offices.