

**FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**PUBLIC**

**OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** UTSC Academic Affairs Committee

**SPONSOR:** Prof. Karin Ruhlandt, Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean  
**CONTACT INFO:** vpdean.utsc@utoronto.ca

**PRESENTER:** Shelby Verboven, Registrar & Assistant Dean, Strategic Enrolment Management  
**CONTACT INFO:** shelby.verboven@utoronto.ca

**DATE:** January 30, 2025 for February 6, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM:** 9

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Proposed Changes to Academic Regulations: Determination of Academic Status

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The University of Toronto Scarborough Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) “is concerned with matters affecting the teaching, learning and research functions of the Campus (*AAC Terms of Reference, 2022*, section 4).” Under section 5.5 of its *Term of Reference*, “amendments to Campus academic regulations that will have a major effect on the entire Campus or that would require an exception to some element of University-wide policy” would require an approval by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs of the Academic Board following recommendation by the AAC.

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

1. **UTSC Academic Affairs Committee [For Recommendation] (February 6, 2025)**
2. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [For Approval] (February 13, 2025)

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

No previous action in governance has been taken on this item.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

This proposal aims to change the policy that determines a student’s academic status, as described in the [Determination of Academic Status section](#) of the *UTSC Academic Calendar*. Currently, UTSC’s CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) and SGPA (Sessional Grade Point Average) thresholds, which

determine if a student is in good standing, on probation, or eligible to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts or Science rather than an Honours degree, are not aligned with those of the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) and the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM).

The three arts and science divisions were aligned with a CGPA of 1.50 for In Good Standing for 11 years (1978-89). In 1989-90, UTSC changed to the minimum CGPA requirement of 1.60 for In Good Standing. According to the Academic Affairs (AA) meeting decision note, the decision to change the CGPA to 1.60 for In Good Standing was done to “avoid criticism that the College is lowering its standards by eliminating the C minus requirement.” The C minus requirement referred to a previous policy requiring students to have a minimum grade of a C minus in 10 courses within a 15-course degree or 16 courses within a 20-course degree.

Creating equitable and aligned standards within the arts and science divisions is now seen as being more important than preserving a sense of higher standards at UTSC via inequitable practices. Additionally, there is ample literature to indicate that placing students on probation earlier in their academic career can have negative psychological impact and a negative impact on student success.

The proposed changes would align the CGPA and SGPA thresholds for different academic statuses with those currently adopted by FAS and UTM. This alignment will create more equitable policies across the arts and science divisions at the University of Toronto, including the University of Toronto Scarborough, all of which offer the University of Toronto degree.

While these changes will increase the number of students moving from probation to suspension, this impact is positively countered by the number of students who would not be placed on probation in the first place and the number of students expected to be eligible to graduate. This policy change will apply to all students registered in an Honours Bachelor of Arts (HBA) and Honours Bachelor of Science (HBSc) in the 2025-26 academic year. The academic standing run at the end of the summer 2025 term will be considered a transition term. Exceptions will be leveraged to benefit students so that they might be able to continue studies or graduate in the fall, as appropriate. However, transcript notations from previous terms will not be adjusted.

In developing this proposal, there was extensive consultation with stakeholders across UTSC, including the Scarborough Campus Students Union (SCSU), the Academic Advising & Career Centre, AccessAbility Services, and chairs of academic departments. There was also consultation with the Registrar’s Offices in the Faculty of Arts & Science, the University of Toronto Mississauga, the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, and the University Registrar’s Office.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no significant financial implications to the campus operating budget.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Be It Recommended:

THAT the proposed changes to the UTSC academic regulations concerning the Determination of Academic Status, as detailed in the accompanying proposal, be approved, effective September 1, 2025.

**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

1. Proposal - UTSC Academic Calendar, Determination of Academic Status (January 23, 2025)

# 2024-25 Curriculum Cycle

## Changes to UTSC Academic Regulations

<b>Proposed Change</b>	UTSC Academic Calendar, Determination of Academic Status Aligning with the Faculty of Arts & Science (FAS) and the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM)
<b>Division</b>	University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC)
<b>Proponents</b>	Office of the Registrar, University of Toronto Scarborough
<b>Contact</b>	Registrar’s Office: Shelby Verboven, Registrar and Assistant Dean, Strategic Enrolment Management ( <a href="mailto:shelby.verboven@utoronto.ca">shelby.verboven@utoronto.ca</a> )
<b>Version Date</b>	January 23, 2025
<b>Effective Date</b>	September 1, 2025

### Governance Route

1. UTSC Academic Affairs Committee [For Recommendation] (February 6, 2025)
2. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [For Approval] (February 13, 2025)

### Summary

This is a proposal to amend the academic regulations as they are described in the [Grades and Academic Records > Determination of Academic Status section](#) of the academic Calendar, in order to align the UTSC policy with those used at FAS and UTM. This corrects historical inconsistencies between the policies of the arts & science divisions.

The table below presents the cumulative (CGPA) and sessional grade point average (SGPA) associated with the different academic statuses. As indicated in this table, currently, UTSC policy requires a student to maintain a CGPA of 1.60 or better to be “in good standing.” Students who have attempted at least 3.0 credits and have a CGPA of less than 1.60 are placed on probation. These students may continue on probation by achieving an SGPA of at least 1.60 in each session. Students on probation who, by the end of a given session, have not achieved an SGPA of at least 1.60 shall be liable for suspension or refusal of further registration depending on if they have incurred a previous suspension.

As the table indicates, UTSC has a higher threshold for achieving good standing, a higher threshold for not being placed on probation and for clearing probation. For UTSC students who are already on probation, they require a lower SGPA but a higher CGPA to retain the probation status. For UTSC students who are already on probation, they require a lower SGPA but a higher

CGPA than students in UTM and FAS to avoid being suspended or refused further registration. Please note, a sessional grade point average (SGPA) is the average of the grades in courses taken in the most recent semester (Summer, Fall, Winter). A cumulative grade point average (CGPA) is the average of the grades of all courses passed or failed.

The proposed changes to the CGPA and SGPA thresholds for the different academic statuses are aimed at making standards across the University more consistent. By aligning these thresholds with those currently adopted by FAS and UTM, it will create more equitable policies across arts and science divisions across the University including the University of Toronto Scarborough, all of which offer the University of Toronto degree.

Academic Status	Current UTSC	Current UTM and FAS
In Good Standing	CGPA 1.60 or better	CGPA 1.50 or better
On Probation	CGPA less than 1.60	CGPA less than 1.50
Probation Cleared	CGPA 1.60 or better	CGPA 1.50 or better
Probation Continued	SGPA 1.60 or better but CGPA still less than 1.60	SGPA 1.70 or better but CGPA still less than 1.50
Suspended or Refused Further Registration	While on probation, both SGPA and CGPA less than 1.60	While on probation, SGPA less than 1.7 and CGPA less than 1.50

## Calendar Copy Showing All Changes

Current Text	Proposed Text
<p><b>Grades and Academic Records &gt; Determination of Academic Status</b></p> <p><a href="https://utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca/grades-and-academic-records#determination">https://utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca/grades-and-academic-records#determination</a></p> <p>The following rules apply to all students except visiting students whose academic status is not assessed or as described below in "Determination of Academic Status for Students Re-enrolling at the University of Toronto Scarborough," "Determination of Academic Status for Students in the Certificate Program in Business," and "Determination of Academic Status for Students Admitted on Probation."</p> <p>Academic status is determined as follows for students who have attempted at least 3.0</p>	<p><b>Grades and Academic Records &gt; Determination of Academic Status</b></p> <p><a href="https://utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca/grades-and-academic-records#determination">https://utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca/grades-and-academic-records#determination</a></p> <p>The following rules apply to all students except visiting students whose academic status is not assessed or as described below in "Determination of Academic Status for Students Re-enrolling at the University of Toronto Scarborough," "Determination of Academic Status for Students in the Certificate Program in Business," and "Determination of Academic Status for Students Admitted on Probation." <b>Academic programs may require an academic status</b></p>

<p>credits since beginning their studies at UTSC, or another Arts and Science division of the University (not including Credit/No Credit, Pass/Fail, or courses marked Extra). It is determined at the end of each academic session (Summer, Fall and Winter):</p>	<p>greater than “in good standing” to be admitted to, continue in, or graduate from a program.</p> <p>Academic status is determined as follows for students who have attempted at least 3.0 credits since beginning their studies at UTSC, or another Arts and Science division of the University and subsequently transferring to UTSC (not including Credit/No Credit, Pass/Fail, or courses marked Extra). It is determined at the end of each academic session (Summer, Fall and Winter):</p>
<p><b>In Good Standing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who maintain a cumulative grade point of average of 1.60 or better are said to be “in good standing”.</li> </ul>	<p><b>In Good Standing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who maintain a cumulative grade point of average of 1.50 or better are said to be “in good standing”.</li> </ul>
<p><b>On Probation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who have attempted at least 3.0 credits and have a CGPA of less than 1.60 are placed on probation.</li> <li>Students returning from suspension (see Suspended or Refused Further Registration below and any provision in previous rules) shall be placed on probation again.</li> </ul>	<p><b>On Probation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who have attempted at least 3.0 credits and have a CGPA of less than 1.50 are placed on probation.</li> <li>Students returning from suspension (see Suspended or Refused Further Registration below and any provision in previous rules) shall be placed on probation again.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Probation Cleared</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students may clear probation by achieving a CGPA of 1.60 or better. Students who have cleared probation shall be said to be again "in good standing".</li> </ul>	<p><b>Probation Cleared</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students may clear probation by achieving a CGPA of 1.50 or better. Students who have cleared probation shall be said to be "in good standing".</li> </ul>
<p><b>Probation Continued</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students may continue on probation by achieving a sessional grade point average of at least 1.60 in each session until they return to good standing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Probation Continued</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students may continue on probation by achieving a sessional grade point average of at least 1.70 in each session until they return to “in good standing”.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Suspended or Refused Further Registration</b></p> <p>Students on probation who, by the end of a given session, have not achieved a sessional grade point average of at least 1.60 shall be liable for suspension or refusal of further registration as follows, regardless of the number of credits taken in the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who have incurred no previous suspension will be suspended for four months (one session);</li> <li>• Students who have previously incurred a four-month (one-session) suspension will be suspended for twelve months (three sessions);</li> <li>• Students who have previously incurred a twelve-month (three-session) suspension will be suspended for thirty-six months (nine sessions); and</li> <li>• Students who have previously incurred a thirty-six month (nine-session) suspension will be refused further registration.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Suspended or Refused Further Registration</b></p> <p>Students on probation who, by the end of a given session, <b>have not achieved a CGPA of 1.50</b>, or sessional grade point average of at least <b>1.70</b> shall be suspended or refused further registration as follows, regardless of the number of credits taken in the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who have incurred no previous suspension will be suspended for four months (one session);</li> <li>• Students who have previously incurred a four-month (one-session) suspension will be suspended for twelve months (three sessions);</li> <li>• Students who have previously incurred a twelve-month (three-session) suspension will be suspended for thirty-six months (nine sessions); and</li> <li>• Students who have previously incurred a thirty-six month (nine-session) suspension will be refused further registration.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Degree Requirements&gt; Honours Bachelor of Arts</b></p> <p><a href="https://utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca/honours-bachelor-arts-hba">https://utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca/honours-bachelor-arts-hba</a></p> <p>Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 1.85. A student whose cumulative grade point average (CGPA) is at least 1.60, but less than 1.85, may request to graduate with a BA or BSc.</p>	<p><b>Degree Requirements&gt; Honours Bachelor of Arts</b></p> <p><a href="https://utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca/honours-bachelor-arts-hba">https://utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca/honours-bachelor-arts-hba</a></p> <p>Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 1.85. A student whose cumulative grade point average (CGPA) is at least <b>1.50</b>, but less than 1.85, may request to graduate with a BA.</p>
<p><b>Degree Requirements&gt; Honours Bachelor of Science</b></p> <p><a href="https://utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca/honours-bachelor-science-hbsc">https://utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca/honours-bachelor-science-hbsc</a></p> <p>Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 1.85. A student whose cumulative grade</p>	<p><b>Degree Requirements&gt; Honours Bachelor of Science</b></p> <p><a href="https://utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca/honours-bachelor-science-hbsc">https://utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca/honours-bachelor-science-hbsc</a></p> <p>Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 1.85. A student whose cumulative grade</p>

point average (CGPA) is at least 1.60, but less than 1.85, may request to graduate with a BA or BSc.	point average (CGPA) is at least 1.50, but less than 1.85, may request to graduate with a BSc.
--	--

## Implementation

Communication and direction to supports already occur pertaining to the different academic statuses. Upon University governance approval, the change will be implemented through the following means:

- UTSC Academic Calendar: this change will be included on the 'New for 2025-26' web page aimed at highlighting any new program, policy and regulation changes. The 2025-26 UTSC Academic Calendar will take effect as of September 1, 2025.
- UTSC Academic Advising & Career Centre (AA&CC) website: the Office of the Registrar will be working with the AA&CC to update its web pages to inform students of the amendments to the determination of a student's academic status, set to take effect September 1, 2025, and to encourage students experiencing academic difficulty to seek academic advising as promptly as possible.
- Communications to academic units: these stakeholders will be notified in writing of the academic regulation change to keep academic advisors and departmental leadership and administrators informed. These colleagues will be asked to direct questions from students to the Office of the Registrar as well as the AA&CC as appropriate.

## Rationale

This proposal is to change the policy that determines a student's academic status. Currently, UTSC's CGPA and SGPA thresholds that determine, for example, if a student is in good standing, on probation or able to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts or Science rather than an Honours degree, are out of alignment with FAS and UTM. Aligning these with FAS and UTM will create equitable policies across arts and science divisions across the University including the University of Toronto Scarborough, all of which offer the University of Toronto degree. The John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design offers an HBA and aligns with the FAS and UTM CGPA for good standing, as well as CGPA and SGPA for probation and suspension statuses.

The three arts and science divisions were aligned with a CGPA of 1.50 for In Good Standing for 11 years (1978-89). In 1989-90, UTSC changed to the minimum CGPA requirement of 1.60 for In Good Standing. According to the Academic Affairs (AA) meeting decision note, the decision to change the CGPA to 1.60 for In Good Standing was done to "avoid criticism that the College is lowering its standards by eliminating the C minus requirement." The C minus requirement referred to a previous policy requiring students to have a minimum grade of a C minus in 10 courses within a 15-course degree or 16 courses within a 20-course degree.



Creating equitable and aligned standards within the arts and science divisions is now seen as being more important than preserving a sense of higher standards at UTSC via inequitable practices. Additionally, there is ample literature to indicate that placing students on probation earlier in their academic career can have negative psychological impact and a negative impact on student success.

## **Student Impact**

While these changes will increase the number of students moving from probation to suspension, this impact is positively countered by the number of students who would not be placed on probation in the first place and the number of students expected to be eligible to graduate. This policy change will apply to all students registered in a HBA and HBSc in 2025-26.

The academic standing run at the end of the summer 2025 term will be considered a transition term. Exceptions will be leveraged to benefit students so that they might be able to continue studies or graduate in the fall, as appropriate. Transcript notations from previous terms will not be adjusted.

## **Resource Implications**

Resources will be part of the regular Academic Calendar production process, which is overseen by the Office of the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean. Resources required to communicate changes to stakeholders as well as implement changes to the different UTSC websites and systems will be supported by the Office of the Registrar and the Academic Advising & Career Centre.

## **Consultation**

In the University of Toronto Scarborough, the Office of the Registrar consulted with the following stakeholders:

- Scarborough Campus Students Union (December 2024) – Expressed support for the proposal with no suggested changes.
- Academic Advising & Career Centre, UTSC (December 2024) – Expressed support for the proposal with no suggested changes.
- AccessAbility Services, UTSC (December 2024) – Expressed support for the proposal with no suggested changes.
- Academic department chairs, UTSC (December 2024) – Expressed support for the proposal with no suggested changes.

Within the wider University of Toronto community, the Office of the Registrar consulted with the following stakeholders:

- University Registrar's Office (December 2024) – Expressed support for the proposal and

provided only minor editorial suggestions.

- Office of the Registrar, U of T Mississauga (December 2024) – Expressed support for the proposal and asked clarifying questions about implementation within the division.
- Office of the Faculty Registrar, Faculty of Arts & Science (December 2024) – Expressed support for the proposal, provided minor editorial suggestions and asked clarifying questions about standing for students who transfer, which was clarified in the calendar wording as a result.
- Office of the Registrar, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design (January 2025) – Expressed support for the proposal with no suggested edits.