



Probation and dismissal

The purpose of this study was to identify the number of students on probation and/or dismissal over a five year period, along with the number who were removed from probation, or reinstated through appeals or returned after the terms of their dismissal were completed. In addition, a cohort of students on probation or dismissed in the fall of 2010 are followed forward to the spring of 2014.

Number of students on probation and/or dismissal over time

Table 1 below provides a count of actions taken on a term- by-term basis for five academic years. Please note that students may appear in more than one count (e.g., first on probation, then dismissed, then reinstated). Because records were sometimes modified in the PeopleSoft system, it is impossible to provide a completely accurate record. However, it appears that the proportion that were placed on probation and/or dismissed has remained steady over five years.

Table 1. Number of students on probation, dismissed, and reinstated or removed from probation by academic year

Academic year	Dismissed	On Probation	Reinstated by appeal	Reinstated after sitting out	Removed from probation	N of undergrads enrolled that year
2008-09	782	2,092	77	404	799	18,009
2009-10	791	2,205	85	387	764	18,652
2010-11	931	2,465	70	422	781	19,337
2011-12	872	2,169	73	406	787	19,454
2012-13	777	2,088	68	368	787	19,513

To obtain a better estimate of the proportion of degree-seeking undergraduates placed on probation each year, we looked a little further into the 2012-13 academic standing data. Of the 19,513 students who enrolled that year, 1,954 or 10% had at least one record during the year that indicated that they were on probation. In the same time period, 763 students or 4% were dismissed from Boise State.

Outcomes for students placed on probation and/or dismissal

To better understand what happens to students placed on probation or dismissal, all degree-seeking undergraduates with a probation or dismissal record in the fall of 2010 were selected for further analysis. Of the 1,606 students included, 260 (16%) were dismissed that fall. The remaining students were on probation: 1,205 (75%) were placed on probation that term, and 141 (9%) were continuing probation from a prior term. We followed this group of students forward to see what happened to them through spring of 2014.

For students who were on probation, 72% enrolled in additional terms beyond fall 2010. About one of four was removed from probation in a future term and about one in five had additional terms on probation.

However, 40% of this group of students was eventually dismissed. For those who continued to enroll, their average cumulative GPA was 1.77.

For the 260 students who were dismissed in fall 2010, 32% were reinstated in a future term. However, 11% had additional terms on probation and 20% had additional terms with a status of dismissed. The average cumulative GPA for those who enrolled for additional terms was 1.85

Table 2 below shows when the dismissed students returned and how their GPAs changed after their dismissal. Overall, only 60% had a cumulative GPA that improved over time and only 40% improved their GPAs to above 2.0. Some students did extremely well after their return, but most never came back, and they continued to struggle if they did return.

Table 2. Semester of return and GPA status for fall 2010 dismissed students who returned (32% of those dismissed)

Semester of return	N in group	Percent whose GPA improved	Percent with most recent cumulative GPA above 2.0
Spring 2011	24	46%	50%
Summer 2011	7	100%	43%
Fall 2011	23	70%	39%
Spring 2012	11	45%	27%
Later	18	67%	44%
Total	83	61%	42%

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