



### **Academic Exclusion and Readmission**

- A. A J.D. student who fails to achieve the minimum grade point average listed below for all academic course work undertaken from date of enrollment through the applicable semester or summer session may be excluded from the College of Law, after an opportunity to be heard before the Academic Standards Committee as to why the student should not be excluded. At or before this meeting, the student must present to the Committee a plan for academic improvement. The Academic Standards Committee has discretion to not exclude the student in accordance with the standards outlined in paragraph D of this Policy. The presumption is in favor of exclusion; the student bears the burden to convince the Committee that he or she should not be excluded from the College of Law. If a student fails to appear at the hearing without prior notice to the Registrar that he or she cannot attend for a compelling reason, the student will be excluded.
1. The minimum cumulative grade point average for a J.D. student who matriculated before the Fall 2009 semester and who has attempted at least 30 credit hours is a 2.00. Students graduating after July 2012 must meet the 2.25 minimum cumulative grade point average requirements in paragraph 2 regardless of matriculation date.
  2. The minimum cumulative grade point average for a J.D. student who matriculated during or after the Fall 2009 semester, or any student graduating after July 2012 regardless of matriculation date, and who has attempted at least 30 credit hours is a 2.25.
- B. Any J.D. student who receives an "X" grade in two consecutive semesters, or a consecutive semester and summer session will be required to meet with the Academic Standards Committee to discuss his or her academic performance. A student who fails to attend this required meeting or who does not satisfactorily explain the reasons for receiving the "X" grades will be excluded from the College of Law. This section applies regardless of the student's cumulative grade point average.
- C. A student who withdraws from the College of Law may be readmitted only upon petition for readmission and favorable action thereon by the Academic Standards Committee. With the exception of students entering the spring semester and part-time students still in the required curriculum, attendance at summer school is not required and failure to attend summer school is not considered a withdrawal.
- D. In determining questions of exclusion and readmission, the Academic Standards Committee will be governed by the applicable standards and guidelines of the American

Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools. In addition, the consideration of the Committee will include, but not be limited to, the following factors: (1) the best interests of the educational institution, including but not limited to, the maintenance of high standards of academic excellence and professional responsibility among members of the student body; and (2) the best interests of the individual applicant for readmission, including but not limited to, consideration of the satisfactory progress of the student in the pursuit of legal studies at the College of Law. In considering the satisfactory progress of the student, the Committee will consider any evidence of correctable peculiarities or disabilities, or culturally-based disadvantages that may have contributed to the student's academic performance.

- E. It is the policy of the Stetson University College of Law faculty not to have the faculty consider petitions for reconsideration or appeal when the Academic Standards Committee has made a decision to exclude a student or to deny readmission of a student following withdrawal, except a petition in the nature of a request for "certiorari." Such a petition should be presented to the Chairperson of the Academic Standards Committee, addressed to the faculty. Copies of the petition will be given to the Dean and each faculty member entitled to vote on it. In response to a request for consideration, the Committee may circulate to the Faculty a memorandum setting out the basis for its decision. (If a faculty member is on leave, that member may elect to vote or not vote, but if he/she elects to not vote he/she will not be counted for purposes of determining whether "certiorari" should be granted.) The Dean and faculty entitled to vote on the petition will be allowed two weeks in which to vote whether the faculty should consider the petition for readmission. Ballots will be turned in to the supervisor of Faculty Support Services. Failure to vote constitutes a "no" vote. At the end of the two weeks, the Chairperson will tabulate the votes. If one-third of the Dean and faculty entitled to vote are in favor of "certiorari," the issue of exclusion and readmission will be placed on the agenda at the next practicable regularly scheduled faculty meeting held during the fall or spring semester (not during the summer). At the meeting, the faculty may decide whether to hear the petitioner and/or witness or instead to decide the case merely on the basis of the petition and discussion by faculty. A decision on the petition for readmission will be by majority vote.

*Explanations and interpretations:*

A fall full-time entrant normally will have attempted at least 30 credit hours by the end of the first spring semester. A spring full-time entrant normally will have completed at least 30 credit hours by the end of the first fall semester.

A part-time student normally will have attempted at least 30 credit hours by the end of the second fall semester.

The Academic Exclusion policy applies to transfer students. Credit hours earned at another institution do count toward the total number of credit hours attempted but they are not included in the grade point average calculation.

*Amended and approved by the faculty on October 15, 2008; revised November 18, 2009. This policy is effective with students matriculating at the College of Law in the Fall of 2009, and will be effective for all students at the College of Law no later than Fall 2012.*