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Destigmatizing Academic Probation:

**Moving from Punitive to Supportive
Language & Practices**



Presenters 01

Transfer, Articulation, and Student Services Committee

Sara Malmquist-West

*College of Marin
Transfer, Articulation, and Student Services
Committee*

Mark Edward Osea

*Mendocino College
ASCCC Area B Representative
Transfer, Articulation, and Student Services
Committee Chair*

Eric Wada

*Folsom Lake College
ASCCC North Representative
Transfer, Articulation, and Student Services
Committee 2nd Chair*





Presenters 02

City College of
San Francisco

Alexandria Leyton

Professor of English

Alexis Litzky

Senate President

Professor of Communication Studies

Mitra Sapienza

ASCCC North Representative

Student Equity Coordinator

Professor of English



Outline

- I. Background: Why does this work matter?
- II. Current Title 5 Regulations
- III. Intersegmental Updates
- IV. Case Study: CCSF
- V. Q&A
- VI. Discussion





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Background

Why does this work matter? Why now?

Academic Probation/Dismissal

- The term "probation" is linked to criminality.
- Language is powerful. By using this term to indicate students' academic status, colleges may be creating trauma, telling students that they are doing something wrong causing feelings of anxiety, fear, discouragement, embarrassment, and depression.
- Goal of "probation/dismissal" is to *inform* students of their status and connect them with support services
 - Counseling
 - Workshops, Academic Planning
 - Learning Communities
 - Student Accessibility Services
 - Psych Services, Health Center, etc.



The Tipping Point

- "The African American Tipping Point: Identifying the Factors That Impact Transfer Among African American/Black Community College Students" (RP Group 2022)
 - "Being placed on academic probation presents a significant barrier to making it near the transfer gate for students of all races/ethnicities, yet is especially salient for African American/Black students as they are more likely to be placed on academic probation in the first place."

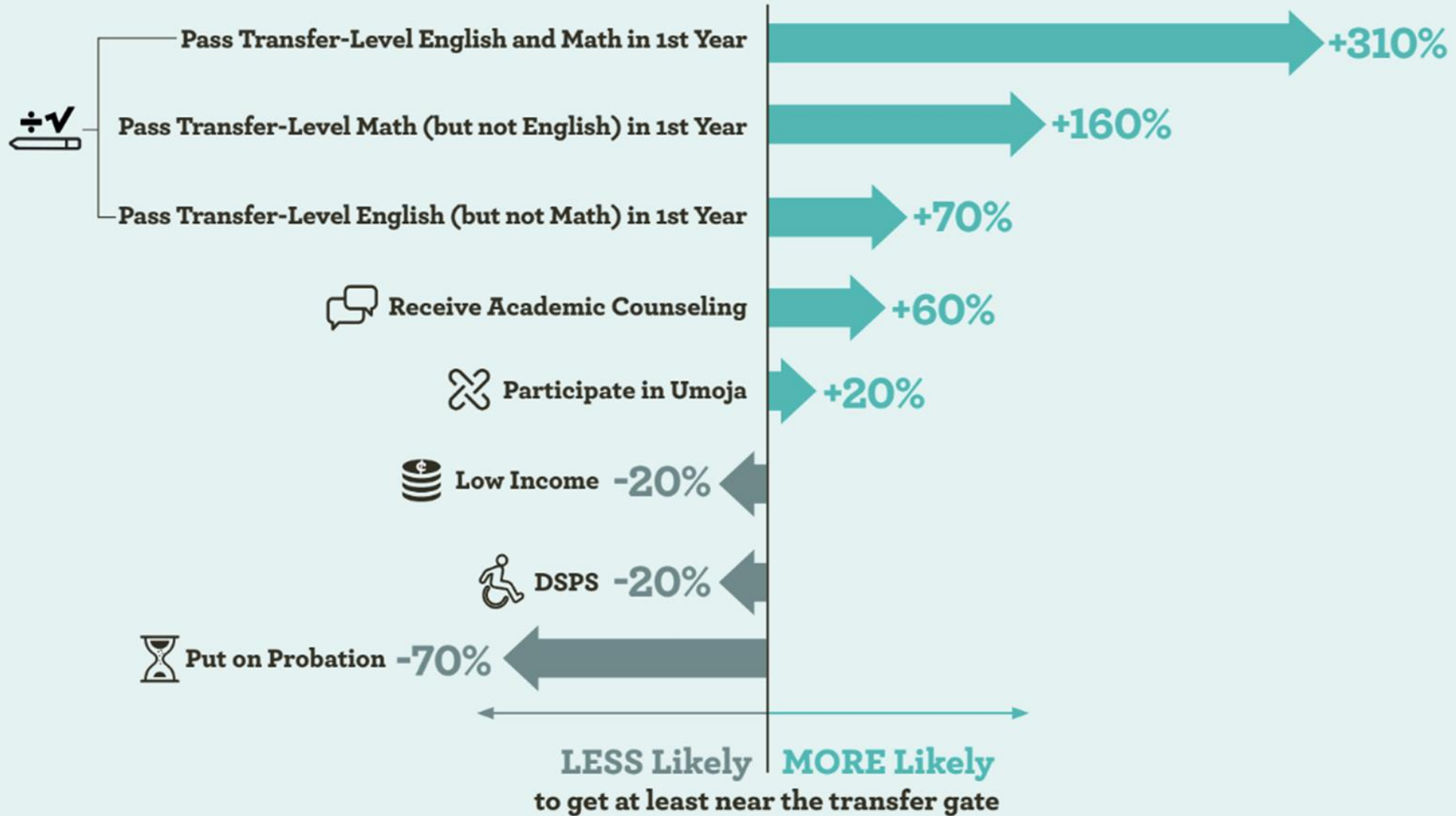
Students say...

“

When we think of probation, half the time, we think of something bad. Usually in the African American community, a lot of that is “Oh, if someone is on probation, they just got out of jail and now they still have to keep being put through trials until they can be actually freed.” So when we do academic probation, in a Black student’s mindset, that’s the same thing – “I’m being held until I can be set free to continue on.” And a lot of times they reduce your financial aid if you’re on academic probation so if that’s what you’re counting on to get classes, now that’s another deterrent to staying in school.

”





ASCCC Resolution: Destigmatize Academic Probation Language and Process

- Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to **overhaul the Title 5 language on probation, including a name change and updating the language and processes to be asset-minded, not punitive**; and Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges **support local academic senates with professional development and resources to encourage reviewing local policies and practices with an aim of mitigating local processes that may negatively impact students who are on academic or progress probation** while Title 5 changes are in progress.



The Why?

- Shifting our mindsets from deficit-minded to asset-based and saying what we mean
- Removing carceral terminology that does not reflect our intentions
- Holding ourselves accountable to reshape policies and practices intended to support students that actually do harm
- Keeping our students' mental health at the center of our practices



Resources

- [Destigmatize Academic Probation Language and Processes | ASCCC Resolution](#)
- [African American Transfer Tipping Point \(AATTP\) Study > The RP Group](#)
- [Gift-Giving Discourse: Decriminalizing Academic Progress Language | ASCCC Rostrum](#)
- [Addressing the Stigmatization of Academic Probation | ASCCC Rostrum](#)
- [Destigmatizing Academic Probation | ASCCC Webinar](#)
- [How to fix problems with academic probation \(opinion\) \(insidehighered.com\)](#)
- [Spotlight on... Moorpark College: Academic Probation Reimagined, November 2023 \(Recording\)](#)
- [How we did it: Progress Report 2021 on the implementation of Academic Notice at CSUF](#)
- [White Paper: Toward a Racially Sensitive Renaming of “Academic Probation” from CSU Fullerton 2021](#)
- [Research Brief: Academic Probation and the Role of Notification Letters](#)





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Title 5 Regulations

What can we do?

Current Title 5 Language

Title 5 §55031

Academic Probation	Progress Probation
A student who has attempted at least 12 semester or 18 quarter units as shown by the official academic record shall be placed on academic probation if the student has earned a grade point average below 2.0 in all units which were graded on the basis of the grading system described in section 55023.	A student who has enrolled in a total of at least 12 semester or 18 quarter units as shown by the official academic record shall be placed on progress probation when the student receives symbols of “W,” “I,” or “NP” (as defined in sections 55023 and 55030) in fifty percent (50 percent) or more of all units in which a student has enrolled.



Title 5 is PERMISSIVE

- Unless explicitly prohibited in regulation, changing “Probation” language is allowed.





We CAN Change

While we wait...

- College webpages with academic standing information
- College catalog language
- Administrative Procedures (that do not site Title 5)
- Counseling practices
- Classroom practices (that could impact how students get on probation in the first place)





We CAN'T Change

While we wait...

Any paperwork or processes of the college directly linked to state and federal requirements tied to current Title 5:

- Financial Aid
- Board Policies
- Transfer Admissions Applications



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Intersegmental Updates

What has been done?

Intersegmental Partner Efforts

UC Academic Regulations 900 and 902

- The following minimum provisions or their equivalents, as ratified by the Assembly, govern the scholastic status of undergraduate students as indicated in strictly internal University records [see Regulations [782](#) and [902](#)]: (Am 24 May 00)
 - Academic **Notice**. An undergraduate student is normally subject to academic **notice** (a) if at the end of any term the student's grade-point average for that term, or the student's cumulative grade-point average, is less than 2.0 (C average) computed on the total of all courses undertaken in the University (however, see paragraph (E) below); or (b) by other provisions approved by the Assembly. (Am 21 June 24)
 - Academic Disqualification. An undergraduate student is subject to disqualification for further registration in the University (a) if at the end of any term the student's grade-point average for that term is less than 1.5 (however, see paragraph (E) below), or (b) if the student has completed two consecutive terms on academic **notice** without achieving a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 as provided above. (Am 21 June 24)



CCC Efforts

A CCCCCO workgroup will be convened that will have representation from Student Services and Academic Affairs



What ASCCC Has Done So Far?

- Rostrum Addressing the Stigmatization of Academic Probation, February 2023
- Rostrum Gift-Giving Discourse: Decriminalizing Academic, November 2023
- Webinar Destigmatizing Academic Probation, December 2023
- Webinar Affirming Academic Progress: Changing the Way We Talk About Academic Probation, May 2024





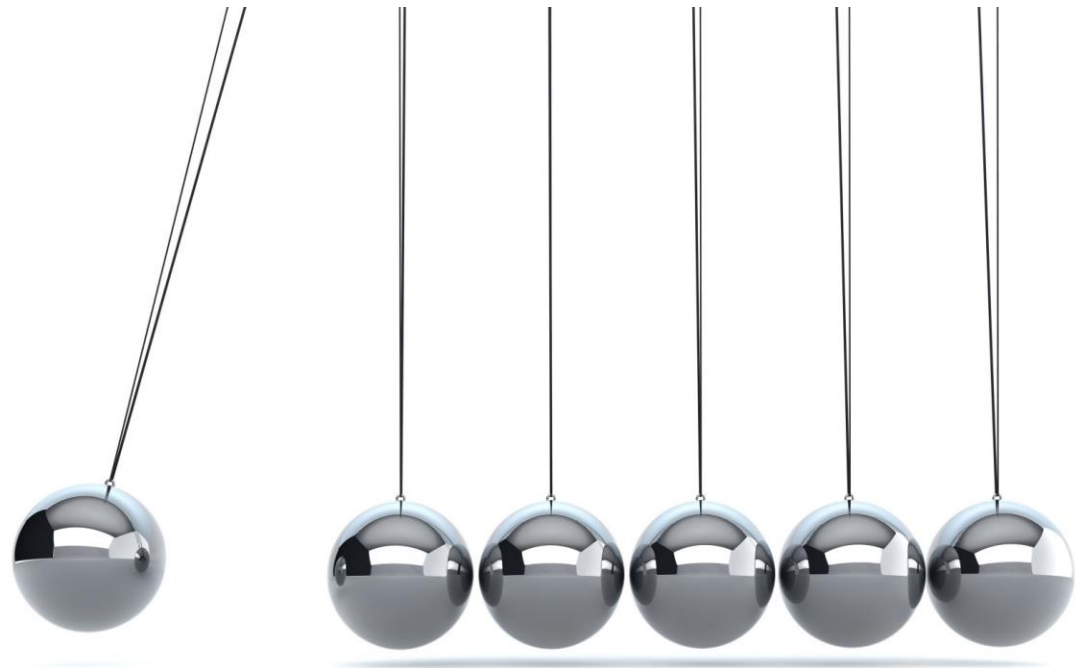
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Academic Notice Case Study

[CCSF Academic Notice Digital Packet](#)

Getting started



Digital packet items

- [1.1 CCSF's Academic Probation Task Force Timeline & Workflow](#)
- [1.2 CCSF Academic Probation Fact Sheet](#)
- [2.1 2023.11.29.7E Decriminalizing Academic Probation Language](#)



Resolution Decriminalizing Academic Probation Language

Resolved that the CCSF Academic Senate convene a taskforce to

- implement language changes to the Academic Policies and Procedures section of the 2023-24 CCSF Catalog (28 references)
- the AP 5.16 Student Code of Conduct (“Sanctions” pg 6), the AP 5.17 Student Discipline (5 references), and wherever the term is used in any other CCSF policies, procedures, communications and webpages
- review and revise all communication sent to students regarding their academic progress
- recommend any further changes to be made in language or process regarding academic progress

Resolved, that the Academic Senate Executive Council convene a cross-constituency taskforce that includes Counseling faculty, students, members from the Student Equity Strategies committee, Office of Research and Planning, Admissions & Records, financial aid, and other appropriate Student Affairs and Academic Affairs areas.



Task Force work

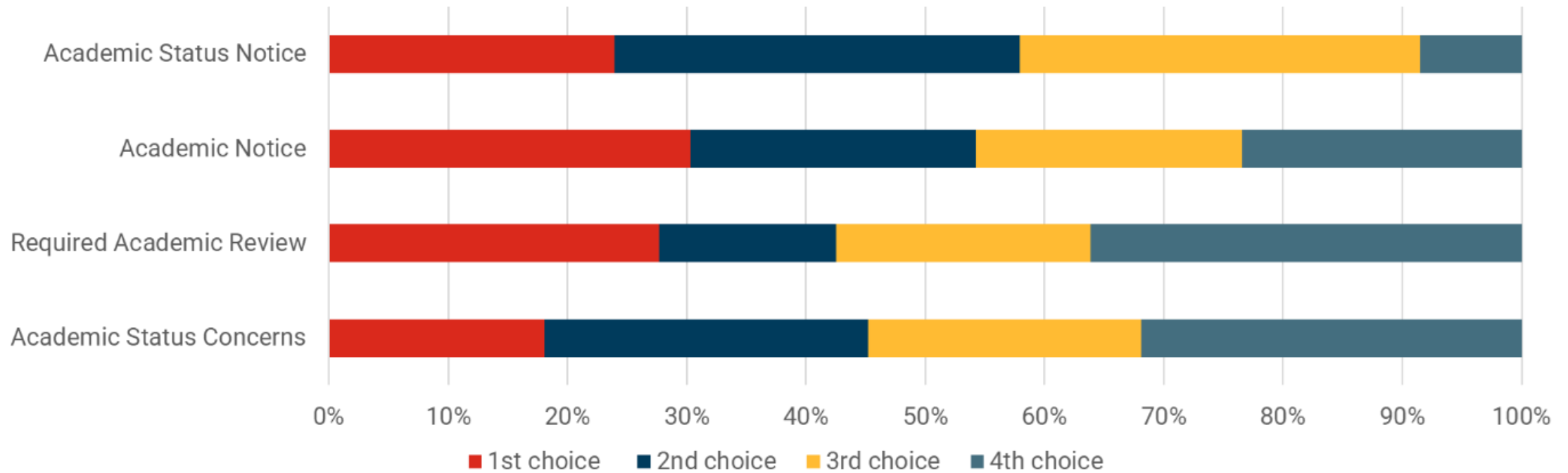
Digital packet items

- [3.1 Tracking Academic Probation Across CCSF](#)
- [3.2 Student Voice Poll & Process](#)



Student survey responses 01

Which of these options is the best replacement for “Academic Probation”?



Student survey responses 02

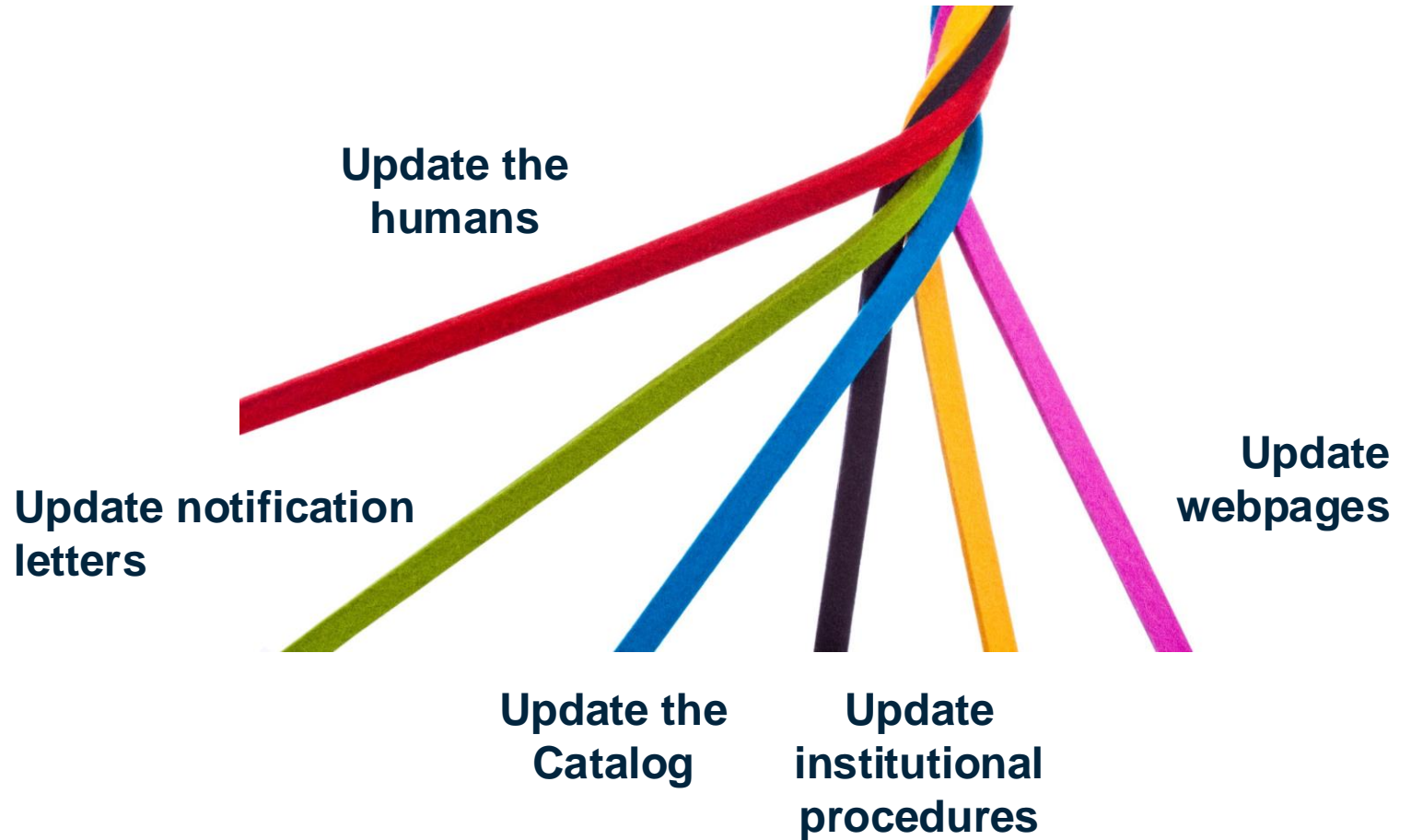
- Academic Advice
- Academic Advisory
- Academic Areas for Improvement
- Academic Assist (AA)
- Academic check-in (Required?)
- Academic construction
- Academic Encouragement
- Academic Enhancement Notice
- Academic Evaluation Period
- Academic Guidance
- Academic Impasse
- Academic improvement
- Academic limbo
- Academic Notification
- Academic Pause
- Academic Performance Review
- Academic period for improvement
- Academic R&R (Revision & Recuperation)
- Academic Rehabilitation
- Academic rehabilitation recommended /required
- Academic Respite
- Academic Review (2)
- Academic Review Notice
- Academic Review Program
- Academic Review/Check-In
- Academic Standing Notice
- Academic Status Alert
- Academic Status Concerns
- Academic Status Development
- Academic Status Examination
- Academic status notice
- Academic studies
- Academic Support
- Academic Trial Period
- Academic warning
- Academically Vulnerable
- Attention needed academic status
- Attention request Academic status
- Educational Growth Opportunity
- Extended help
- GYST(get your shit together)
- How close are you to reaching your dreams?
- Progress Restoration Initiative
- Required
- Required academic revision
- Required Academic Status Review
- Review GPA
- RUOK (are you ok?)
- Scholastic Review
- Time out zone
- Warning



Implementation and ongoing work

Digital packet items

- [4.1 Submitted changes for 2025-26 Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures & Academic Probation and Dismissal](#)
- [4.2 Updated Academic Status letter to students](#)
- [4.31 Submitted updates to AP 6.22 Grading and Academic Record Symbols: Credit Courses](#)
- [4.32 Submitted updates to AP 6.30 Credit for Prior Learning](#)



Getting the Vibe Right: Letter to Students

We are sorry to inform you that you have been placed on Academic Notice for the Spring 2024 semester. Academic Notice means your grade point average (GPA) fell below 2.0. It is important you take steps as soon as possible to improve your GPA. **Your educational success matters to us, so let's work together** to build a plan to support your academic goals.

What to know

- Being on Academic Notice puts you at risk of losing Financial Aid eligibility. Contact Financial Aid: finaid@ccsf.edu
- If you are on Academic Notice for two consecutive semesters, you will lose priority registration.
- Foster youth are exempt from these restrictions.

What to do

- Contact a counselor as soon as possible to explore ways to bring your GPA to 2.0 or above. See a counselor to:
 - Review your Academic Notice status.
 - Develop or update your education plan.
 - Get help with your Summer or Fall 2024 classes.
- If you are part of a specific program, like DSPS, EOPS, or Veterans, contact your program counselor.
 - Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS) dspsacom@ccsf.edu
 - Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) eops@ccsf.edu
 - Veterans Services – Appointments – veterans@ccsf.edu

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to make an appointment, please reach out to the counseling department at academiccounseling@ccsf.edu. Find general counseling information here: <https://www.ccsf.edu/student-services/student-counseling/academic-counseling>.

If you think you have received this letter in error, please reach out to Admissions & Records at admit@ccsf.edu.

Let's work together to get you back on track.

Reframes information into more of a "we're not here to judge you" vibe and that we're in this together with the student.

Organizes the resources in a streamlined way that more clearly guides the student to their next steps.

Incorporates hyper-links whenever possible to direct students to more information.



Resources to Help Students

- Share your resources available to help students who are on probation
- How are inclusion, diversity, equity, antiracism, and accessibility (IDEAA) included in these resources?
- Why are these resources important?
 - Probation results (often) in losing eligibility for:
 - need-based financial aid,
 - scholarships,
 - internships/work,
 - leadership in student government/clubs,
 - priority registration



Other Related Efforts:

- Academic Renewal
 - Allows for D/F/W grades to be discounted from a student's GPA to return a student to good standing.
 - Title 5 [55046](#) outlines requirements for Academic Renewal
 - Thresholds and criteria vary across districts
 - ASCCC Resolution: [105.01](#) (F24)



Follow-up; Stay Informed

- Follow-up:
 - Any Further Questions: info@asccc.org
 - Request a [local senate visit](#) or other visit
- Stay-informed:
 - Please sign up for ASCCC official and unofficial listservs to stay informed on important information and opportunities to engage with the ASCCC and faculty across the state:
 - <https://www.asccc.org/sign-our-newsletters>

