

Resolution on Terminology Changes Regarding Academic Standing

Whereas, Cañada College's Mission, Vision, and Values¹ emphasize that our college and district embrace inclusivity and work to dismantle systems of oppression; and

Whereas, the term "academic probation," when used in higher education, has historically indicated a deficit regarding the student, and the term probation is associated with criminal activity, which can perpetuate trauma for students who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) as well as justice-impacted students²; and

Whereas, the term "academic notice" carries the same meaning institutionally as "academic probation," relaying the same information without being punitive or invoking criminality; and

Whereas, the use of the term "academic probation" has been identified as having negative connotations for students' sense of belonging and confidence³ in their academic abilities; and

Whereas, male-identified students on academic probation were twice as likely as college women to drop out⁴; and

Whereas, studies show that being put on academic probation "presents a significant barrier to making it near the transfer gate for students of all races/ethnicities"⁵; and

Whereas, practices like putting students on academic or progress probation disproportionately impacted Black students, as it found that 41% of Black students were placed on probation versus 24% of White students in California community colleges from 2011 and 2016;

¹ Cañada College, "About Cañada," Mission, Vision, and Values, June 22, 2022, <https://canadacollege.edu/about/mission.php>.

² Elizabeth Boretz, Karyn Scissum Gunn, & Delilah La Pietra, "Toward a Racially and Culturally Sensitive Renaming of 'Academic Probation,'" *California State University, Fullerton*, 2020, https://bit.ly/academic_probation.

³ San José State University, "Amendment E to University Policy S16-16, Academic Notice, Administrative Academic Probation, and Disqualification," *San Jose*, June 20, 2023, <https://bit.ly/academicnotice>.

⁴ Jason M. Lindo, Nicholas J. Sanders, & Philip Oreopoulos, "Ability, Gender, and Performance Standards: Evidence from Academic Probation," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2(2): 95-117, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1257/app.2.2.95>.

⁵ Darla M. Cooper, & Katie Brohawn, "The African American Transfer Tipping Point: Exploring the Transfer Journeys of Over 7,000 African American/Black Community College Students," *RP Group*, October 2023, https://bit.ly/RP_group.

Whereas, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is currently promoting change of the Title 5 language⁶ around probation and dismissal;

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Cañada College support the district-wide modification of terminology around probation to include a name change from “academic probation” to “academic notice,” thus keeping the language asset-minded and not punitive; and

Resolved, the Academic Senate of Cañada College encourages the review of local policies and practices to revise any that may negatively impact students who are on academic probation to asset-minded processes that will support students’ success.

Signed,
The Academic Senate of Cañada College

⁶ Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, “Destigmatize Academic Probation Language and Processes,” California, Spring 2023,
<https://www.asccc.org/resolutions/destigmatize-academic-probation-language-and-processes>.