

Richmond Scholars Program Minimum GPA Policy – Updated 5/20/2020
This policy applies to all Richmond Scholars and Presidential Scholars

Richmond Scholars and Presidential Scholars must maintain a 3.0 CGPA in order to retain their scholarships. A Richmond Scholar or Presidential Scholar with three semesters (consecutive or not) with a CGPA below 3.0 will, by default, have the scholarship revoked. The student may, in accordance with the Richmond Scholars / Presidential Scholars GPA policy (outlined below), petition the Richmond Scholars Steering Committee for one final (fourth) semester of scholarship if evidence in the academic record suggests that a fourth semester can result in a CGPA of 3.0 or higher. The Richmond Scholars Steering Committee may choose to deny the petition for a fourth semester of scholarship, in which case the scholarship will be immediately revoked. If the petition for a fourth semester of scholarship is granted, and a CGPA of 3.0 or higher is not achieved after the fourth semester of scholarship, the scholarship will be revoked.

1. First semester with cumulative GPA (CGPA) under 3.0:

You will receive an alert letter (electronically) from the Richmond Scholar Director (copy sent to mentor and Office of Financial Aid). The Richmond Scholars Director will request that you confirm receipt of the letter and might, in certain cases, ask to meet with you at the beginning of the following semester.

The alert letter will highlight the expectation that the next semester GPA should be above a 3.0 with the goal of raising the CGPA above a 3.0.¹

2. Second semester with CGPA under 3.0:

If the CGPA remains below a 3.0 for a second semester, all Richmond Scholars and Presidential Scholars will have one more semester (a third) in which to reach the CGPA of 3.0 or above. It is expected that any Richmond Scholar or Presidential Scholar whose academic work is below a CGPA following two semesters will meet regularly with his or her mentor as well as the Director of the Richmond Scholars Program. A letter stating this expectation will be sent to the student, with a copy to the mentor and the Office of Financial Aid.²

At this point the Richmond Scholars Director will alert the Steering Committee of the circumstances of the student(s) who are in the situation outlined above.

3. Third semester with CGPA under a 3.0:

a. Your scholarship will be discontinued following a third semester with

¹ Please note that, should a student choose to study abroad, that semester will be counted as one of the remaining semesters available to return the cumulative GPA to a 3.0 or above. In addition, the student should be aware that grades from a study abroad experience do not affect the Richmond GPA.

² Tutors for some subjects can be located through the Academic Skills Center or the Writing Center; if tutors are required outside of those resources, they will be retained at the student's expense.

your CGPA below a 3.0. Students may appeal under extraordinary circumstances to the Richmond Scholars Steering Committee for a fourth semester in order to raise their CGPA above a 3.0. The appeal should be made no later than 5 days following the end of the fall term, or 7 days following the end of the spring term; appeals may be submitted earlier than the deadline. The Richmond Scholars Steering Committee will review the appeal once all documents have been submitted.³ If the appeal is successful, the student will have one final semester (a fourth) in order to raise the CGPA above a 3.0. If the student does not raise the CGPA above 3.0 in the fourth semester the scholarship will be terminated. If the Richmond Scholars Steering Committee rejects the appeal, the scholarship will be terminated. The student will be notified of the outcome of her or his appeal within one week of receipt of all appeal documents.

³ Should the student wish to appeal to the Richmond Scholars Steering Committee, a letter must be written by the student to the committee, stating the reasons why an additional semester should be permitted. In addition, the student should provide the committee with a complete transcript that includes the GPA for each semester. Only completed academic work will be considered by the Richmond Scholars Steering Committee during the appeal process; incomplete academic work will stand as is and will not delay the appeal decision. The student should also submit a plan outlining the specific measures she or he will take to remedy her or his situation.

Addendum: Richmond and Presidential Scholars GPA Probation Policy for Spring 2020

Due to the extraordinary circumstances of the Spring 2020 semester at the University of Richmond, the following temporary modification will be made to the terms of the Scholars GPA Probation Policy, which is outlined in the Richmond Scholars Program Minimum GPA Policy*. This modification applies to the Spring 2020 semester only.

Scholars on GPA probation during the Spring 2020 semester will be granted one additional semester of probation prior to removal of the scholarship.

The purpose of this policy is to allow students on GPA probation reasonable flexibility in making choices regarding the temporary grading policies in place at the University for Spring 2020 such as the option for CR/CR-D/NC grading, which has no impact on the GPA. Particularly given that Scholars on probation are working to raise their GPAs above the 3.0 threshold, Scholars affected by this policy are strongly encouraged to work with their academic advisors and the Faculty Director of the Richmond Scholars program to make decisions around grading options for the Spring 2020 semester.

* The Richmond Scholars Program Minimum GPA Policy applies to students in the Richmond Scholars and Presidential Scholars program.

Policy Date: 4/3/2020