

Resolution on Terminology Changes Regarding Academic Standing

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 students; and

Whereas, College of San Mateo's [Mission, Vision and Values statements and Institutional Priorities](#) emphasize that our college and district embrace inclusivity and work to dismantle systems of oppression; 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 [Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is currently promoting change](#) of the Title 5 language around probation and dismissal;

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

Resolved, the Academic Senate of College of San Mateo encourage the review of local policies and practices to adjust any that may negatively impact students who are on academic probation.

Signed,
The Academic Senate of College of San Mateo

Approved by majority vote April 9, 2024.

