

## Sample Dialogue with a Student on Academic Warning

(Using Socratic Advising Model)

University of Louisville

An academic advisor meets with a student on academic warning. After pleasantries and other information is exchanged, the advisor gets down to the purpose of the meeting which is to help the student rationally examine their thinking about what it means to be on academic warning, what may have caused the student's academic performance to drop and how to return to good standing.

Advisor: What do you need to do to return to good academic standing?

Student: I guess I need to make better grades.

Advisor: Ok, first, let's talk a bit about good academic standing.

Student: Ok.

Advisor: What is the purpose of universities having academic statuses such as good academic standing, academic warning, academic probation, etc.?

Student: I guess it is to tell you when your grades are slipping.

Advisor: Ok, let me be sure I got that straight. The purpose of universities having academic statuses is to notify students when their GPA falls below the minimum standard. Is that correct?

Student: Yes

Advisor: Why do you think universities put students on academic warning?

Student: I think when your GPA gets to a certain point, the university warns you that you need to bring your grades up.

Advisor: Can you give an example?

Student: Ok, if my GPA slips to a 1.9, I am below what is required by the university to be in good academic standing.

Advisor: That's good. What GPA do you need to have to be in good academic standing?

Student: 2.0, I think.

Advisor: How do you think we can check to make sure that is true?

Student: I suppose it is in the catalog somewhere.

Advisor: Yes, we can read about the policy in the catalog.

Advisor: Are there any consequences or implications for a student to be on academic warning?

Student: Well, other than it may not look good on my record, if I bring up my GPA, I don't think there are any consequences.

Advisor: How can we find out for sure?

Student: It's probably in the catalog.

Advisor: Yes, and when we look in the catalog about the GPA policy, we can also check about any consequences academic warning may have for students.

Student: Ok.

Student and Advisor look at policy in catalog.

Advisor: Was there any information about the policy that was new to you?

Student: Yes. I didn't realize that I am limited in taking 13 hours while on academic warning.

Advisor: Why do you think the university limits students to 13 hours while on academic warning?

Student: I'm not really sure.

Advisor: How do you think we can find out?

Student: I guess I could ask someone.

Advisor: Who do you think you could ask?

Student: An academic advisor?

Advisor: Yes, and I can help you with that. The intent of the policy is to limit the amount of work students in academic warning do so they will have more time to devote to improving their grades.

Student: That makes sense, but won't that take me longer to graduate?

Advisor: Yes, it can, but it is important to concentrate on bringing up your grades so that you don't get suspended from the university.

Student: Well, I certainly don't want to be suspended.

Advisor: That's right. Was there any other information about the policy that you learned?

Student: I don't think so.

Advisor: What happens if you don't bring up your GPA to 2.0 this semester?

Student: Oh, I forgot about that. The catalog said that if I don't bring up my GPA I will be put on academic probation.

Advisor: Yes, and do you know what that means?

Student: My course load will be limited again and if I don't make improvement I will be suspended from the university.

Advisor: Yes, that is correct. So, you understand that a lot is riding on your eligibility to continue as a student here?

Student: Yes. I'm glad we're having this discussion because I didn't think being on academic warning was a big deal. Boy, was I wrong!

Advisor: Now let's get back to the original question. What do you need to do to return to good academic standing?

Student: I need to bring my GPA up to a 2.0.

Advisor: Yes. Now let's talk about what may have caused your GPA to drop.

Student: Ok.