

Information for students serving first- or second-suspension

Due to Winter Break, UMW offices will be closed from December 16, 2017 through January 2, 2018. Please find below FAQs regarding academic suspension and the suspension appeal process. Offices will reopen at 8am on January 3, 2018 and we will be happy to assist you at that time.

What does it mean if I am serving first- or second-suspension?

Students who realize first- or second-suspension at the conclusion of the fall semester were not able to raise their GPA high enough to avoid suspension. The minimum GPA required to avoid suspension is based on the number of attempted credit hours. Information on suspension GPA ranges can be found online in the [UMW Academic Catalog](#).

Students on ***First-Suspension*** may return in Summer or Fall 2018 and with prior approval from Academic Services, the student may transfer up to two courses completed at another school during the spring 2018 semester. Please contact Academic Services at 540-654-1010 on or after January 3, 2017 to schedule an appointment with Mr. Brian Strecker to discuss reinstatement and approval to take courses elsewhere this spring. ***Students on first-suspension may appeal their suspension (please see details below).***

Students on ***Second-Suspension*** may return in Spring 2019. During the suspension period, a suspended student may not take courses at another institution, nor may a student enroll in summer courses at UMW. Prior to returning to UMW, students on second-suspension must meet with Mr. Brian Strecker in Academic Services to discuss reinstatement plans. Please contact Academic Services at 540-654-1010 beginning in September, 2018, to schedule a reinstatement meeting. ***Students on second-suspension may appeal the suspension (please see details below).***

What is a suspension appeal?

Students who realize first- or second-suspension may appeal their suspension through the [Academic Services website](#) by 12:00 Noon on Friday, January 5, 2018. Late appeals will not be accepted. A committee of faculty will review suspension appeals and students will be notified of the committee's decision by 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. Students who are not approved for reinstatement will be removed from all spring 2018 classes by the Registrar's office. If approved for early reinstatement, a student may return to UMW in the spring to take classes, however their first- or second-suspension will stand on their official UMW record. *If reinstatement is not approved, any tuition or room/board previously paid for spring 2018 will be refunded to the student.*

Who should appeal first- or second-suspension?

Students who wish to reinstate early and continue with classes during their period of suspension should submit an appeal by 12:00 Noon on Friday, January 5, 2018. Common reasons for early reinstatement include previous hardship (e.g. medical or emotional condition which impacted academic work, but has since been addressed), measured academic improvement during the previous semester, a realized need to change an academic major, and other hardships which have impacted the student's ability to succeed academically.

What makes a strong appeal?

In order to present a strong appeal it is important for the student to address the cause of their academic challenge(s) and articulate how they plan to improve moving forward, including an academic recovery plan developed with an academic advisor. The recovery plan can often involve course retakes, which will help raise the student's GPA with the close of the subsequent semester.

It can be helpful to include a recommendation from an academic advisor, physician, mental health counselor, and/or faculty member, if appropriate.

Who can I contact for support as I prepare my appeal?

UMW is closed for Winter Break from December 16, 2017 through January 2, 2018. During this time all offices will be closed. During the week of January 3-5, 2017, Academic Services staff will be available by appointment (phone or in-person) to discuss your suspension and appeal. Please visit the following website to schedule a suspension advising appointment: [Academic Services website](#) . You may also call 540-654-1010 beginning at 9am on Wednesday, January 3, and someone can assist with scheduling an appointment. ***Appointments are first-come, first-served, so please plan accordingly.***