
Academic Policies

Enrollment

Registrar's Office
Miller Building, Room 224
(607) 753-4702
www.cortland.edu/registrar/

Student Responsibility and Academic Integrity

The College expects those who are admitted to undertake their responsibilities as students so that their work is a credit to themselves and to the College. Guides to student conduct are outlined in College handbooks. The College reserves the right to place on probation or to terminate the enrollment of any student whose conduct or academic record is unacceptable.

As an academic community with the mission of promoting scholarship through the acquisition, preservation and transmission of knowledge, the College is dedicated to the promotion of academic integrity. In a college setting all members of the institution have an obligation to uphold high intellectual and ethical standards.

SUNY Cortland's policy on academic integrity is published in the *College Handbook* and in the *Code of Student Conduct and Related Policies*. The introduction to the policy reads, in part:

"Students must recognize that their role in their education is active; they are responsible for their own learning. Specifically, it is the responsibility of students to protect their own work from inappropriate use by others and to protect the work of other people by providing proper citation of ideas and research findings to the appropriate source. This includes the obligation to preserve all educational resources, thereby permitting full and equal access to knowledge..."

Orientation

An orientation program for new students is conducted several times during the summer, usually in July, and immediately before the start of classes in the fall and spring. Questions should be referred to the Advisement and First-Year Programming Office.

Advisement

New students are assigned to academic advisors early in the fall semester. For students who are undecided about what they eventually will choose for a major, the College has a Pre-Major Program with special advisement. Advisors for the Pre-Major Program are assigned through the Advisement and First-Year Programming Office.

Advisement Guidelines

MISSION STATEMENT

SUNY Cortland views academic advisement as serving the educational needs and ambitions of the SUNY Cortland student. Its purpose is to assist students to develop meaningful educational plans that are compatible with their life goals. In this spirit the advisement process also helps the student to satisfy immediate, short-term needs for selecting courses, scheduling and registration. Students come to Cortland with differing academic experiences, varying needs and diverse backgrounds. Advisement plays a crucial role in helping students move toward becoming "independent learners living enriched lives," which is one of the major goals of the College's mission. Students and advisors have important responsibilities in this process. Students must seek guidance, be knowledgeable about their programs and assume responsibility for degree completion. Advisors must provide sufficient time for advisement, have a comprehensive understanding of the student's course of study and College policies, and be ready to guide the development of students academically and as related to potential careers.

RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to fulfill the expectations of academic advising, the advisee as well as the advisor have certain responsibilities.

The responsibilities of the advisee are:

- to recognize that the student is ultimately responsible for knowing and fulfilling all degree requirements. The student is also responsible for being aware of and meeting academic deadlines and financial obligations.
- to commit a reasonable amount of time both on his/her own and with the academic advisor, planning and implementing the academic program.
- to initiate contact with the academic advisor and to formulate — in consultation with the academic advisor — an academic program consistent with the student's interests and plans for the future. The student is responsible for reading the department advisement manual (where available), the College Catalog, and other college/department advisement materials. The student should come to scheduled meetings with the advisor prepared with necessary registration materials, suggestions for courses to be completed, and a plan for meeting graduation requirements.
- to seek out the advisor or department chairperson for assistance, in negotiating difficulties or changes in academic program plans.

The responsibilities of the advisor are:

- to work with each student advisee to achieve an academic program consistent with the student's academic preparation, interests, and plans for the future (to the extent that the student is able to articulate his/her interests and plans).
- to be familiar with College and departmental requirements as well as know about campus resources (e.g., Counseling Center, Academic Support and Achievement Program, Career Services).
- to commit a reasonable amount of time assisting the student in examining options and identifying College resources.
- to schedule sufficient time in the office during critical periods such as pre-registration and drop/add to assist with academic advisement problems of students. At other times, advisors are expected to be available by appointment and during regularly scheduled office hours to meet with students for academic advisement.

Enrollment Procedures

All students are expected to register by the final registration date specified in the College calendar. Exceptions to this procedure are rare and can be granted only by the associate dean of the appropriate school. A late fee will be charged.

Change of Undergraduate Major

Qualified students who meet the academic criteria published in the College Catalog may apply for a new major. In addition to establishing academic criteria, such as grade point averages and standards to be met in prerequisite courses, some departments limit acceptances. Students who do not meet the criteria or who are not accepted due to a limited number of openings must select another major. **Caution:** Students remaining on a waiting list or as pre-majors after their sophomore year will jeopardize their eligibility for financial aid and potentially their time to degree completion.

Undergraduate Change of Major forms are available in department offices and require the signed approval of the accepting

department chair. Students should file all change of major forms in the department of the new major before the established deadline each semester (October and March) to ensure the ability to register for courses in the new major during the registration period.

Changes in Degree Requirements

While the curriculum at Cortland undergoes frequent review and new courses are established, students are assured that requirements for graduation at the time of initial enrollment will remain unchanged for those who complete their undergraduate programs without interruption. A change of major, the addition of a new minor or concentration may result in additional required coursework for the new major and/or the need to meet certain grade point criteria as determined by the new department's published requirements at the time of the change of major. An official leave of absence is not considered an interruption of enrollment.

The College reserves the right to change the College calendar, fees and requirements other than those for degrees. Such changes become effective when adopted.

Fees and Assessments

All fees and assessments are due as indicated on tuition and fee statements. Other accrued debts owed to the College or to any agency thereof must be paid prior to registration. Students who are not in good standing and owe outstanding tuition and fees will be

removed from the College class rosters for failure to meet their financial obligations.

The College reserves the right to charge a nominal service fee in cases when students, through negligence, fail to meet certain administrative appointments important to the conduct of College business or to abide by publicly announced College deadlines.

Change of Name and Address

It is the student's responsibility to inform the Registrar promptly of any change of address. All students are required to provide the College with an accurate local address immediately upon change, and confirm such at the beginning of each semester.

Name changes will be recorded on a student's request and upon receipt of evidence showing the name has officially changed (i.e., court order, marriage certificate, or a dissolution decree reflecting the new name).

Academic Records

Student grades are reported to the Registrar's Office from which transcripts are issued. Students are entitled to one free transcript, mailed with the diploma after graduation. Additional copies may be purchased for \$5 each and payment must accompany the written request.

The Registrar's Office is responsible for registration, adding and dropping courses, enrollment verifications, degree requirement compliance and issuing the Course Schedule each semester.

Matriculation Guidelines

Class Year

Students are identified by class year in accordance with the number of credit hours earned toward graduation as follows:

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| Freshman | 0-25.5 credit hours |
| Sophomore | 26-56 |
| Junior | 56.5-89.5 |
| Senior | 90 or more |

Credit from Other Colleges

SUNY Cortland students must complete at least 45 credit hours for the degree at SUNY Cortland to meet the College's residency requirement. In addition, one half the credits for the major and at least three courses of each minor or concentration must be completed at SUNY Cortland. Students matriculated at the College can receive credit for course work taken at other colleges if they receive prior approval from the appropriate associate dean. Cortland students are limited to receiving a maximum of 64 hours of transfer credit from two-year colleges.

Either school of the College may designate special requirements that may not be taken elsewhere.

College Credit Hour System

The basic unit of credit in College courses is the "credit hour" — one hour of credit for a 16-week semester. Students are expected to study a minimum of three hours outside of class for each credit hour. Thus a student should plan on a 45-hour study week for an academic load of 15 credit hours.

The regular student semester credit hour load varies from 15 to 18 hours a semester, depending on the program. Loads in excess of 18 credit hours must be approved by the appropriate associate dean.

Full-time Status

To be eligible for maximum federal and state financial assistance or Veterans' benefits an undergraduate student must be registered for a minimum of 12 hours a semester. Students who retake courses should check provisions of their financial aid awards to avoid jeopardizing their receipt of aid. Refer to pages 24-25 for details.

Undergraduate Study

Any undergraduate student who receives New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) funds must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours during the fall and/or spring semesters. To qualify for TAP during the summer the student must register for at least six credit hours of study during either summer session or for three credit hours in each summer session. An undergraduate student may enroll for up to six credit hours of study during each summer session. Loads in excess of six credit hours must be approved by the appropriate associate dean.

Graduate Study

A full-time course load for graduate study during the fall and/or spring semesters is nine (12 if a TAP recipient) credit hours or the equivalent. To qualify for TAP during the summer the student must register for six credit hours of study during Summer Session I or Summer Session II or for three credit hours in each summer session. Graduate students wishing to enroll for more than 12 credit hours (six hours during summer sessions) must have the approval of their advisor and the associate dean of their school.

The course load for a graduate assistant is six to 12 credit hours, according to the regulations of the specific department and program in which the graduate assistant is enrolled, and the approval of the graduate assistant's academic adviser.

Class Attendance

It is the policy of the College that regular class attendance is a basic requirement of all courses. However, as long as absences are not excessive, it shall be the students' performance and not their attendance record which shall determine their course grade. The policy does not exclude class participation and/or performance as a factor in determining course grades.

Other than the restrictions stated in this policy, the taking of attendance and attendance requirements are at the discretion of the individual instructor. In determining the student's grade, the instructor may consider excessive absences. Instructors shall state in the course syllabus, and emphasize to the class at the first meeting, the attendance requirement for the course. Instructors should make clear to their classes what they consider to be valid reasons for missing class, and what penalties will be assessed for excessive absences.

Penalties for excessive absences, as determined by the instructor's policy, shall not exceed one-third of a letter grade per class hour of absence.

Students are responsible for all work missed. Instructors shall establish procedures to allow students who have been absent for valid reasons to make up missed class work. If students anticipate having to miss class, it is their responsibility to inform the instructor ahead of time. Students who miss a final examination will receive an E for that course unless they obtain an excuse for their absence from the associate dean of their school.

Absences due to participation in approved College activities shall be considered valid absences. The provost and vice president for academic affairs shall determine what College activities are approved as valid for students to be absent from classes.

Non-attendance does NOT mean a student has dropped a course. Students who have NOT attended class and have not officially dropped or withdrawn from the course should receive a grade of "E."

Reporting Absences and Illness

If students are not in Cortland and are going to be absent from campus because of emergencies such as surgery, accidents involving lengthy absences from campus, or extenuating circumstances, they should notify the associate dean of the school in which they are majoring. The associate dean will notify the student's instructors.

Classes and examinations are scheduled according to the academic calendar which is adopted by the College each year. The fall semester usually begins late in August or early in September and ends in the third week of December. The spring semester usually begins in mid to late January and ends in the third or fourth week of May.

Religious Beliefs and Class Attendance

Section 224-a of the New York State Education Law reads as follows:

1. No person shall be expelled from or be refused admission as a student to an institution of higher education for the reason that he is unable, because of his or her religious beliefs, to register or attend classes or to participate in any examination, study or work requirements on a particular day or days.

2. Any student in an institution of higher education who is unable, because of his or her religious beliefs, to attend classes on a particular day or days shall, because of such absence on the particular day or days, be excused from any examination or any study or work requirements.

3. It shall be the responsibility of the faculty and of the administrative officials of each institution of higher education to make available to each student who is absent from school, because of his or her religious beliefs, an equivalent opportunity to register for classes or make up any examination, study or work requirements which he or she may have missed because of such absence on any

particular day or days. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to the said student such equivalent opportunity.

4. If registration, classes, examinations, study or work requirements are held on Friday after four o'clock post meridian or on Saturday, similar or makeup classes, examinations, study or work requirements or opportunity to register shall be made available on other days, where it is possible and practicable to do so. No special fees shall be charged to the student for these classes, examinations, study or work requirements or registration held on other days.

5. In effectuating the provisions of this section, it shall be the duty of the faculty and of the administrative officials of each institution of higher education to exercise the fullest measure of good faith. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his or her availing himself or herself of the provisions of this section.

6. Any student, who is aggrieved by the alleged failure of any faculty or administrative officials to comply in good faith with the provisions of this section, shall be entitled to maintain an action or proceeding in the supreme court of the county in which such institution of higher education is located for the enforcement of his or her rights under this section.

6-a. It shall be the responsibility of the administrative officials of each institution of higher education to give written notice to students of their rights under this section, informing them that each student who is absent from school, because of his or her religious beliefs, must be given an equivalent opportunity to register for classes or make up any examination, study or work requirements which he or she may have missed because of such absence on any particular day or days. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to such student such equivalent opportunity.

7. As used in this section, the term "institution of higher education" shall mean any institution of higher education, recognized and approved by the regents of the university of the state of New York, which provides a course of study leading to the granting of a post-secondary degree or diploma. Such term shall not include any institution which is operated, supervised or controlled by a church or by a religious or denominational organization whose educational programs are principally designed for the purpose of training ministers or other religious functionaries or for the purpose of propagating religious doctrines. As used in this section, the term "religious belief" shall mean beliefs associated with any corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, which is not disqualified for tax exemption under section 501 of the United States Code.

Schedule Changes

Students wishing to make adjustments to their academic class schedule may do so during the official College drop/add period. For full semester courses, the drop/add period is the first three days of the semester. Classes may be dropped and added without penalty during this period only. Quarter courses (second and fourth) have a designated two-day drop/add period in October and March, respectively. (Refer to the College calendar for specific dates.)

Students who do not attend a class are not dropped automatically and risk the chance of receiving a grade of E.

All drop/add transactions made after the official drop/add period are subject to late fees. Students must withdraw from a class after the official drop and add period.

Auditing Courses

Auditing of courses is subject to the following conditions:

1. Auditors may be accepted into classes only with the consent of the instructor of record and will be refused admission to classes that have reached the maximum number of students.

2. Course auditors normally will not be charged any tuition but will pay all laboratory fees and other charges connected with a course.
3. Course auditors will not be enrolled and listed in registers for such courses. Course auditors attend without credit or formal recognition. They do not need to meet the requirements of the course.
4. Course auditors may not subsequently request credit for the course even if they complete the course requirements.

Seniors Taking 500-Level as Graduate Courses

Seniors in their final semester of undergraduate study may request permission to register for courses (500-level only) for graduate credit. A form for the same purpose is available from the respective associate dean. Approval must be obtained from the school associate dean for the student's major. The total course load, including undergraduate and graduate credit, may not exceed 16 semester hours during the semester or six semester hours during a five-week summer session. Students are cautioned that graduate credits thus earned may not be transferred toward meeting the requirements for the master's degree at another institution.

Field Experiences: Student Teaching, Field Work, Co-Op Programs, Internships, Practica

Eligibility

Certain programs in the School of Professional Studies, as well as adolescence English, adolescence foreign language, adolescence mathematics, adolescence sciences, and adolescence social studies have additional eligibility requirements, which are fully explained under appropriate department sections of this catalog.

To be eligible for student teaching, field work, cooperative programs, or internships, undergraduate students must have at least a 2.0 cumulative quality point average while graduate students must have at least a 3.0 cumulative quality point average; no students may have incompletes on their records and/or be on any form of probation, and no students may have any serious judicial record.

The College is currently reviewing wait list policies for those students who do not meet preliminary eligibility requirements for student teaching. Students are advised to check with their major departments regarding wait list policies.

Housing and Transportation

Because placements are often at some distance from campus, relocation from the Cortland area may be necessary during the field experience. Therefore, students should exercise caution in signing leases for the academic year during which student teaching, field work, etc., will occur. Having a local lease will not aid a student in gaining a local placement. Additionally, other commitments, such as jobs, bear no influence on the location of placements. Arrangements for housing and transportation during all field experiences are the responsibility of the student.

Retaking Courses

When a student retakes a course, all grades received will remain on the official transcript, but only the last grade received will be included in the quality point average and hours toward graduation. Students must file a retake of course form with the Registrar's Office to ensure accuracy of their cumulative grade point average and official transcript. The grade excluded from the cumulative totals will be annotated with an "E" on the transcript. The grade included in the cumulative totals will be annotated with an "I." The retaken course must be repeated at SUNY Cortland under the same grading system in order to be eligible for this policy.

Students receiving financial aid are encouraged to check with the Financial Aid Office and with the Bursar's Office to avoid losing an award, especially when retaking a previously passed course. Forms for retaking a course are available in the Registrar's Office.

Enrollment in Course Work

Students may not be enrolled in any course work (at SUNY Cortland or at any other institution), nor participate in any college-related activities while engaged in student teaching or field work.

Placements for Student Teaching and for Pre-Student Teaching Field Experiences

Placements for student teaching and for pre-student teaching field experiences typically are not made in school districts where the SUNY Cortland student has been a student or an employee, where the student's children attend school, or where a relative is employed or serves on the school district's Board of Education.

Even after placements have been confirmed (contingent upon the student's final eligibility to student teach), they may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances within the public schools such as unexpected teacher retirements, unpredicted changes in teaching assignments, etc. Should confirmed placements be cancelled by the public schools, the Field Studies Office will make every effort to locate an alternative placement, the location and scheduling of which will depend upon those placements which are available within the specific discipline and at the specific grade level(s) required by New York State mandate.

Students may neither seek nor arrange their own placements. The College, through the Field Studies Office, will arrange all placements, which are final.

Credit for Student Teaching

Credit for student teaching cannot be transferred in to SUNY Cortland from any other institution. All SUNY Cortland student teachers must be supervised by SUNY Cortland supervisors.

Evaluation

Standards of Performance

Instructors are expected to inform students of course requirements and grading procedures by the end of the first full week of classes. To be included are policies on examinations and other evaluation procedures, exemptions from examinations and make-up examinations.

Examination Policy

Final examinations are required. However, in cases where the nature of the course makes such action undesirable or an adequate series of other evaluation procedures is substituted, a department chair may permit an exception from the policy. In certain cases an instructor may exempt students from final examinations if the students meet specified criteria filed beforehand with the department chair. Instructors are required to inform students during the first week of classes of their examination policies.

Final examinations or last examinations of the course are given during final examination week (except for examinations in quarter courses which end in the middle of the semester). No examinations, quizzes or tests of any type are permitted during the last week of classes prior to the published final examination week unless approved in advance by the appropriate department chair and associate dean.

Adjustments may be requested in the final examination schedule for students having two examinations scheduled at the same time, more than two examinations in any one day, or a verified illness or other emergency. Requests for adjustments follow procedures established and published by the Registrar.

Missed Examinations

It is the student's responsibility to arrange with the instructor for make-up examinations. Students who miss final examinations will receive an E for those courses unless they are granted an excuse for their absence by the associate dean of their school. Make-up examinations must be taken after the regularly scheduled examination and will be given at the convenience of the instructor.

Reporting of Grades

A final grade report is issued at the end of each academic session. At mid-semester students are notified regarding their satisfactory, unsatisfactory or failing status in each course. Students are also notified when they are placed on academic probation or when, because of academic deficiencies, they will be required to attend summer session at Cortland in an effort to remove those deficiencies and thus qualify to continue their enrollment at the College.

Quality Points

A student's level of scholarship is determined by the following system of quality points per credit hour:

| | | |
|----------|---------|----------|
| A+ = 4.3 | A = 4.0 | A- = 3.7 |
| B+ = 3.3 | B = 3.0 | B- = 2.7 |
| C+ = 2.3 | C = 2.0 | C- = 1.7 |
| D+ = 1.3 | D = 1.0 | D- = .7 |
| E = 0.0 | | |

Quality point averages are determined by dividing the total number of quality points by the total number of semester hours for which a student has been graded. For example, a grade of C in a three-hour course is equivalent to six quality points. If a student completes 17 semester hours of course work and accumulates 38 quality points, the average will be 2.235. Although it is possible to attain a 4.3 average, the College considers the method a 4.0 grading system.

In courses where grades are listed as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory or Pass/No Credit neither grade is used in determining the student's grade point average. A Satisfactory or Pass grade is credited toward graduation, however.

Dean's List

A uniform 3.3 average will be required of all students to qualify for the Dean's List which is announced at the end of each semester. Students named to the list represent the highest ranking undergraduates in their respective academic areas of the College. Students will qualify for the Dean's List if their semester's grades include credit for a course load of at least 12 semester hours, of which at least eight hours must be taken for letter grades.

Pass/No Credit Option

The Pass/No Credit grading option encourages juniors and seniors to enroll in challenging courses outside their major or minor, adding breadth to their academic work while not incurring the penalty of a low grade. Only juniors or seniors with a grade point average of at least 2.0 cumulative and in the major may petition to receive Pass/No Credit grades in elective courses with the approval of the student's major department chair. Courses which CANNOT be taken for Pass/No Credit include:

1. Courses in the major, minor or concentration;
2. Courses required for the General Education, or All-College requirements (composition and quantitative skills as well as Writing-Intensive (WI) courses) and foreign language courses required for the bachelor of arts or bachelor of sciences; and
3. Graduate courses.

Only one course per semester, for a total of four, may be taken for Pass/No Credit. Any exception for an additional course during a semester requires the associate dean's approval. Departments may set additional limits, but cannot grant exceptions to the above stipulations.

Forms are available in department offices and must be completed, approved and submitted to the Registrar during the first three weeks (for a semester course) or the first week (for a quarter or modular course). Once approved and submitted, this petition is binding and cannot be reversed.

Academic Standards Policy

SUNY Cortland's academic standards policy is dependent upon the student's Grade Point Average (GPA) achievement in each semester – semester by semester – rather than a cumulative GPA. The same standards apply to all undergraduates except those designated as Education Opportunity Program (EOP) students.

LEVELS OF ACADEMIC STANDING

1. Academic Probation: All SUNY Cortland students with a cumulative GPA between 1.01 and 1.99 will be placed on academic probation. They will receive a notice of academic probation from the associate dean of their school along with an academic contract notifying them of the semester GPA needed to regain **good academic standing of 2.00 cumulative GPA**, limiting their course load to no more than 15 credit hours and providing other recommendations. Students on academic probation will be advised to curtail any activity which is detrimental to regaining good academic standing (e.g. on and off-campus employment, fraternity/sorority, resident assistant activities).

SUNY Cortland students whose semester GPA is less than 1.01 but whose cumulative GPA is greater than 2.00 will be placed on academic warning and advised to improve their academic performance.

2. Academic Suspension: Students who fail to meet their academic contract will be subject to academic suspension. Suspension mandates two semesters away from campus (two summer sessions equal one semester). During that time, students are required to take full-time coursework at another accredited college earning an overall 2.75 or higher GPA, or be employed full time with an excellent employment record, or have an honorable record of military service. Students whose semester GPA is less than 1.01 will be automatically suspended. Students placed on academic suspension have the right of appeal to the Academic Standing Committee. Students who are reinstated after appeal or upon return from suspension will be placed on academic probation with an academic contract.

First-semester freshmen and first-semester transfer students with a cumulative GPA of less than 1.01 will be automatically suspended but will be eligible for expedited appeal through their respective associate dean. Those students reinstated following expedited appeal of suspension will be placed on academic probation with an academic contract. They must meet expectations outlined above for students on probation.

3. Academic Dismissal: Students who are reinstated following academic suspension and fail to meet their academic contract will be subject to academic dismissal, with the right of appeal to the

Academic Standing Committee. Students who are academically dismissed are ineligible to apply for readmission for a minimum of three years.

Note: Any academic contract, whether signed by the student or not, will be in effect for the term in question and will supersede other probation and suspension policies. Grounds for appeal will be mitigating circumstances such as death in the family, injury or illness requiring hospitalization and other special circumstances.

Academic contracts are targeted for students to achieve **good academic standing (2.00 cumulative GPA)**. Attaining this GPA, however, may not be sufficient to allow entry into some majors. Students should check with their department for specific cumulative GPA entry requirements. Full-time students are permitted a maximum of one and one half times the normal length of time to complete their degree for financial aid purposes. For students attending on less than a full-time basis, the scale will be adjusted accordingly. Any student who is not in good academic standing should always check with the Financial Aid Office to determine their individual financial status. (See the financial aid section of this Catalog for an explanation of financial aid implications.)

An Academic Standing Committee will consider student appeals to academic suspension and dismissal. Since granting of an appeal is not automatic, it is intended only to accommodate extraordinary or unusual situations. The Committee will convene in January, May and August of each academic year to consider student appeals and review pertinent documentation of mitigating circumstances provided by the student. The student must also provide the Committee with a written plan for achieving academic success.

Decisions of the Academic Standing Committee would be considered final. If the Academic Standing Committee grants the appeal, the student will be allowed to return for the next semester on academic probation. Students are only eligible for one appeal as a undergraduate student.

Academic Standards for Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Students

Grade point requirements:

| | <i>Automatically on Probation</i> | <i>Subject to Dismissal</i> |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Semester I | Below 1.50 | Below 1.00 |
| Semester II | Below 1.75 | Below 1.50 |
| Semester III | Below 2.00 | Below 1.75 |
| Semester IV | | Below 2.00 |
| Semester V | | |

Transfer Credit Policies

See page 13 of this catalog for transfer application procedures and criteria and transfer of credit policies.

Withdrawal

Withdrawal from College

Students withdrawing from the College will be assigned a grade of W. It is the student's responsibility to clear all records and obligations to receive official separation. The official withdrawal record form and procedure may be obtained from the associate dean in the student's major school.

Students who decide not to return to Cortland are responsible for notifying the Registrar's Office in writing to avoid tuition and fee liability problems and to release seats to fellow students. Non-attendance does not constitute a drop. If the College is in session, obtain the withdrawal form from the associate dean. Failure to do so will delay any refunds the student may be eligible to receive.

Leave of Absence

Leave of absence for a specific period of time may be granted to a student in good academic standing (not subject to academic dismissal or on academic probation). A student applying for a leave of absence must give a definite date for return to the College and must register within one academic year of the date of leaving the College.

A student not returning to register within a specified time will be classified as an official withdrawal.

Application for leave of absence must be made to the associate dean of the school in which the student is enrolled.

Readmission

Candidates matriculated for undergraduate degrees who interrupt their education at SUNY Cortland and later wish to return must be formally readmitted. An official leave of absence is not considered an interruption in enrollment.

Students who have been dismissed for academic reasons ordinarily will not be eligible for readmission until at least three years have passed since their dismissal. Previous academic achievement at the College, grades received for college work completed elsewhere (transcripts from other institutions attended must be included with application), and the circumstances under which the student left Cortland are all considered in the readmission process. Also considered may be length of time away from Cortland, military service, and/or employment experience. A condition of readmission may be "successful academic performance" (2.75 cumulative grade point average) at another accredited institution and mandatory summer school attendance at Cortland.

Readmitted students re-enter SUNY Cortland under the catalog at the time of readmission and are, therefore, responsible for all College, General Education, and major requirements in effect at the time of readmission.

Readmission forms are available from the Registrar's Office at SUNY Cortland. Applicants for readmission to the College must complete and file a readmission form directly to the Registrar's Office, no later than July 15 for fall readmission, Nov. 15 for spring readmission, and April 15 for summer readmission.

In addition, readmitted students who require on-campus housing must inform the Residential Services Office of their intent to return. Students requiring financial aid should notify the Financial Aid Office.

Withdrawal from a Course After Official Change of Schedule Period

College policy: The letter X indicates official withdrawal from a College course, as approved by the associate dean, when the student's grade at the time of withdrawal was D- or better. Students who are failing the course at the time of withdrawal will receive the failing grade of XE. Grades of X will not be awarded for courses which are dropped during the official drop and add period, the first three days of the semester for semester courses, or before the second class meeting of modular or quarter courses.

Students are not allowed to withdraw from classes during the last three weeks of semester courses or the last week of quarter or modular courses.

Impact of X and XE Grades on Financial Aid: Grades of X and XE are considered attempted but not completed for the purpose of calculating Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for Financial Aid Eligibility. The policies regarding SAP for State and Federal Financial Aid are detailed in the SUNY Cortland College Catalog. The most common financial aid impact from course withdrawal in a single semester is a loss of NYS TAP eligibility for the following semester. However, a pattern of withdrawal and/or failure across more than one semester may result in the loss of ALL future aid eligibility, including student loans. It is strongly recommended that you consult with your Financial Aid Advisor if withdrawal will reduce your total completed hours for the current semester to less than 12.

Graduation

Graduation with Honors

Honors at graduation are awarded students whose quality point averages meet the following standards: summa cum laude, 3.75 and above; magna cum laude, 3.5 to 3.749; cum laude, 3.2 to 3.499. All such awards of honors must have the approval of the faculty. Although honors at the graduation ceremony are designated by using the cumulative grade point average attained at the end of the fall semester, the diploma and permanent record will only reflect honors as designated when all course work has been completed.

Graduation Procedure

Commencement information and degree/diploma order cards are mailed to potential bachelor degree recipients with at least 75 hours towards the degree for the ensuing year in October. All candidates for the bachelor's degree should file their completed cards with the Registrar by Nov. 1 prior to the year in which the degree will be received. This applies to May, August and December candidates. Those filing after the deadline may jeopardize the chance of being listed in the Commencement program and may experience other

delays in receiving certificates, diplomas and verifications of graduation.

Transcripts of Record

Graduating students receive one free transcript which is mailed with the diploma after graduation.

Requests for transcripts must be in writing and accompanied by a payment of \$5 for each transcript. Checks should be made payable to SUNY Cortland and mailed to the Registrar's Office.

The written request must include name, address, social security number, dates of attendance, any degrees received, and all name changes if applicable. Transcript service will not be provided if the student has any outstanding obligations to the College. Transcript requests will be returned if student has a "HOLD" on their record, or if the incorrect payment is forwarded with the request. Written requests can be forwarded to the Registrar's Office, SUNY Cortland, P.O. Box 2000, Cortland, N.Y. 13045. Transcript service is normally provided within two to three business days. Only complete transcripts are sent.

Additional Recognition of Academic Excellence

SUNY Cortland encourages, nurtures, and recognizes academic excellence in its students in several ways:

Academic Honor Societies

The following academic honor societies have chapters at Cortland:

- Alpha Sigma Lambda, national honor society for adult students
- Alpha Kappa Delta, Sociology
- Beta Beta Beta, Biology
- Eta Sigma Gamma, Health
- Kappa Delta Pi, Education
- Omicron Delta Epsilon, Economics
- Phi Alpha Theta, History
- Pi Delta Phi, French
- Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science
- Psi Chi, Psychology
- Sigma Delta Pi, Spanish
- Sigma Phi Omega, Gerontology
- Sigma Pi Sigma, Physics
- Sigma Tau Delta, English

Honors Convocation

The College recognizes students for their academic achievements at the annual Honors Convocation. Awards and scholarships are presented at this solemn, yet festive ceremony. The Honors Convocation is the College's affirmation of its commitment to excellence.

Honors Programs within the Academic Disciplines

Several academic disciplines, such as English, history and psychology, offer honors programs for high-achieving students. For more information see the various departmental listings in this catalog.

Honors Program

The Honors Program is designed for students with high ability and unusual motivation. It brings together accomplished teachers and achieving students in a program that provides challenging opportunities for students of outstanding ability and interests. See page 145 for further details.

Phi Eta Sigma

The College also supports a chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, the freshman honor society. Admission to Phi Eta Sigma is a unique recognition of achievement for first-year students.

Phi Kappa Phi

The Cortland chapter of the national honor society Phi Kappa Phi recognizes and encourages superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. Admission is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by the faculty. Phi Kappa Phi also recognizes outstanding academic achievement through grants and other honors.

Scholars' Day

Scholars' Day is a day-long series of presentations highlighting faculty, staff, and student scholarship. This annual celebration of research and inquiry aims to increase students' understanding and appreciation of the College's scholarly work.

Grading System

| GRADE | QUALITY POINTS AWARDED | DEFINITION AND SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OR CONSIDERATIONS |
|-------|------------------------|---|
| A | yes | Superior performance |
| B | yes | Good performance |
| C | yes | Fair performance |
| D | yes | Minimally acceptable performance |
| E | no | Failure of a course |
| IN | no | Incomplete which automatically becomes an E if work is not made up by end of the following semester. (Graduate students refer to the graduate section of this catalog.) Exceptions may be granted only upon petition to the instructor and the associate dean of the school in which the course is offered. In setting time periods for finishing incompleted courses, the instructor must give the student adequate time in which to complete the course. Factors to be considered include deadlines for making up other incompletes and the student's schedule in the semester the incomplete is to be made up. The associate dean consults with the instructor involved before granting an extension of time in which to make up the incomplete. Student does not re-register for the same class to make up an incomplete. |
| P | no | Pass, for courses taken on Pass/No credit basis. |
| LG | no | Late Grade, was not available when the grade report or transcript was printed |
| NC | no | No credit, for courses taken on Pass/No credit basis. |
| E/I | | Indicates that the annotated Cortland course has been repeated or a graduate grade has been removed, and has been <i>excluded</i> (E) from the grade point average calculation and cumulative totals. All grades remain on the transcript, but only the last grade is <i>included</i> (I) in the grade point average and cumulative totals. Students repeating courses must file a form with the Registrar during the period in which the course is retaken at Cortland. |
| X | no | Official withdrawal from course in which student's work is passing up to the time of withdrawal. Such withdrawal must be approved by the associate dean of the school in which the student is majoring. |
| XE | no | Official withdrawal from course in which student's work is failing at the time of withdrawal and is calculated in the GPA. Such withdrawal must be approved by the associate dean of the school in which the student is majoring. |
| N | no | Student registered for course but never attended. If student does not officially drop the course by the 12th week of the semester, the N grade will be changed to an E. |
| W | no | Withdrawal from College |
| WV | no | Waiver (course requirements were met through Advanced Placement or Proficiency Examination). No credit is granted for such courses. |
| H | no | Honors |
| S | no | Satisfactory |
| U | no | Unsatisfactory applicable to certain courses that do not lend themselves to the use of a full range of grades to measure the student's achievement |

SUNY Cortland employs a plus and minus grading system ranging from A+ to D- which is the lowest grade for which college credit is awarded. Failure of a course is indicated by E. The above letter grades and notations are used by the Registrar.