

**Student #1: Ramiro Barrientos**

*(Image source: Getty Images)*

Ramiro is a 24 year old veteran who wants to pursue a career in Nursing. He has a full-time job, medical experience from the military, and wants a flexible schedule. He is a returning student.

When Ramiro started at Cabrillo 4 years ago, he had a mixed course record. In his first semester he passed five units and failed seven. The college sent him an email that he was on warning for academic probation. His friends said that grades don’t make a difference in community college, so he enrolled in 15 units for the next term. In the middle of the semester, even though he was doing well, he lost his housing and in the stress of trying to find a new place to live, missed most of his midterms, got discouraged and stopped attending three of his classes (9 units). He knew that his grades weren’t good, but he didn’t check them. Instead in his third semester he chose to repeat the three courses that he failed and work full time and find a better place to live. Halfway through the semester, he got into an argument with his housemates and decided to leave school to join the army. He changed his email and started on his new life.

Four years later he returned from the army, motivated and ready to focus on his studies to become a nurse. When he tried to register for classes, he was told that he had been academically dismissed and needed to attend a workshop and meet with a counselor before he could enroll. Unfortunately, all the workshops over the next week were either full or did not work with his schedule, so he had to wait two weeks before attending. In the workshop, he was given information, resources and tools to stay on track which he appreciated, but wished he’d known about those services four years earlier. After the workshop, he was cleared to register for classes, but most of his nursing prerequisites were full, so he chose to take some other general education classes to improve his overall GPA. He met with the Nursing counselor, did well in his classes, went to tutoring at the Vets Center as necessary, and registered in some of his prerequisite courses the following semester. With his improved grades, he became eligible for Academic Renewal, which allowed his substandard past grades to be removed from his GPA. Within two more semesters, he finished the required courses and applied into the Nursing program.

What could Ramiro have done earlier in his Cabrillo career to prevent getting on academic probation and then dismissal? What services​ and/or ​interventions could have helped him? How could he have connected to these services?