



SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

Issued By: Student Financial Services & Compliance

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I. Scope of Policy

This policy provides guidelines and established procedures for satisfactory academic progress in accordance with federal and state regulations.

II. Standards for Federal Financial Aid Programs

Federal regulations require students to make satisfactory academic progress (SAP) toward the completion of a degree or certificate program in order to receive Title IV financial aid, which includes Federal Pell and SEOG Grants, Federal Work Study, Federal Perkins Loans and the Federal Direct Loan Program. Satisfactory academic progress is measured qualitatively and quantitatively by two components: a student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) and the amount of credits they have earned relative to their year in school and enrollment status.

Satisfactory academic progress is measured annually, at the end of the Spring semester, after all grades have been submitted. Students failing to meet the above criteria are eligible to appeal this decision if extenuating circumstances played a factor in their academics. Examples of such circumstances could include an illness, accident, separation or divorce, or the death of a relative. An appeal must be made in writing to the Institute and include an explanation of the circumstance(s) that may have adversely affected the student's ability to meet the academic requirements, and the changes that have occurred which will allow them to make SAP in the future. All appeals must be accompanied by supporting documentation, such as a letter from a doctor or attorney. If an appeal is granted, the student will be placed on probationary status for one semester after which the student must meet SAP guidelines. Failure to meet these SAP criteria after the probationary period will result in loss of eligibility for Title IV funds.

Students wishing to receive Title IV financial aid for summer semesters may have these awards evaluated and offered prior to a determination of SAP. All students receiving summer aid will have their SAP evaluated after all spring grades have been submitted. Students not making progress will have their summer aid cancelled, and the student will be liable for all assessed charges unless an appeal is filed and granted as outlined above. Student must register and pay for courses via other means (non-federal student aid) and will be evaluated after each semester until they are making SAP. At this point, their eligibility for federal student aid will be re-instated.

Undergraduate Criteria

The criterion below outlines the progress that is required for a full time undergraduate student to be considered in good standing:

SAP Completion Requirements		SAP GPA Requirements	
Number of Credits Attempted	Number of Credits Earned	Total Credits Earned	Cumulative GPA Required
0-29	50%	0-29	1.8
30 - & above	67%	30 - & above	2.0

Graduate Criteria

The criteria below outline the progress that is required for a full time graduate student to be considered in good standing:

Completion Rate Requirement

- All students must earn at least 67% of their attempted hours. The maximum time frame to complete each degree varies by Department and is outlined in the bulletin under the specific degree program.

GPA Requirement

- Students who have earned fewer than 13 credits must maintain a 2.75 GPA; students who have earned 13 credits or more must maintain a 3.0 GPA.

Additional Information

- Progress standards for part-time students are prorated based upon the criteria above.
- Qualifying transfer credits are counted as both attempted and earned credits but have no effect on the GPA.
- Grades of W (Withdrawal), WD (Unofficial Withdrawal), INC (Incomplete), are counted as credits attempted but not completed, and do not affect the GPA.
- Repeated classes will count only once towards credits completed. A student may receive aid for a repeated class that has been successfully completed once.
- Students may not receive Federal aid for classwork that exceeds 150% of their degree requirements.
- Any departmental requirements that exceed these standards must be adhered to for the purposes of evaluating SAP.
- The Institute will recalculate SAP continuously throughout the year to account for late grade submittals, grade changes, etc.

III. New York State Education Department Standards

To receive financial aid awards from New York State, including undergraduate Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) funding, students must meet the academic standing requirements as defined by the New York State Education Department. These requirements are different than those set forth by the Federal government, and are applicable only to New York State awards.

The basic measures for good academic standing for TAP Awards include the following:

- Pursuit of Program: A student must receive a passing or failing grade (A-F) in a certain percentage of courses each term.
- Satisfactory Academic Progress: A student must accumulate a specified number of credits and achieve a specified cumulative grade point average (GPA).

The requirements for meeting these standards increase as the student progresses, and is based upon the number of State awards that the student has already received. Students failing to meet the required criteria are eligible to request a one-time waiver of the academic and/or “C” average requirement(s) if extenuating circumstances played a factor in their academics. Examples of such circumstances could include an illness, accident, separation or divorce, or the death of a relative. An appeal must be made in writing to the Institute and include an explanation of the circumstance(s) that may have adversely affected the student’s ability to meet the academic requirements, and the changes that have occurred which will allow them to make SAP in the future. All appeals must be accompanied by supporting documentation, such as a letter from a doctor or attorney. If a waiver is granted, the student will be eligible for the State award for the semester for which they were granted the waiver. The student must be meeting the academic progress and pursuit of program requirements to receive further awards.

The charts below outline the progress that is required for an undergraduate student to be considered in good standing:

Baccalaureate Semester Based Program Chart (2010 Standards)

This applies to all non-remedial students’ first receiving aid in 2010-11 and thereafter.

Semester	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Before Being Certified for Payment:										
A student must have accrued at least this many credits	0	6	15	27	39	51	66	81	96	111
With at least this GPA	0	1.5	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

Additional Information

- All students must be registered for a minimum of 12 credits per semester.
- A student may not receive a NY State award for repeating a class that they have already successfully completed (i.e. the credits for a repeated class for which the student has already received a satisfactory grade will not count towards the full-time requirement).
- The standards that a student must meet are dependent upon when a student first received an award from NY State, as well as their remedial status.
- A student is placed on the charts above based upon their total TAP points received, including any award(s) received at a previous institution(s).
- To continue to receive TAP funding, a minimum number of credits must be completed each term, as well as on a cumulative basis.
- Students who have accrued 64 credits are required to declare a major to maintain their TAP eligibility.
- A student must maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) prior to being certified for a TAP payment. This average increases as the student progresses in payment points.
- All students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 (a "C" average) or better after accumulating 24 or more payment points (e.g., 4 full time semesters).
- A student who is not making progress, and/or is not meeting the "C" average requirement may request a one-time waiver if extenuating circumstances affected their academic performance. A student may only receive this waiver once for NY state awards.