

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy

Purpose

All financial aid recipients are required to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) according to Federal regulations and policies set by Sandhills Community College (SCC). The intent of these policies is to ensure that students who are receiving financial aid are making measurable progress toward completion of an approved degree, diploma, or certificate program in a reasonable period of time and within a reasonable number of credit hours attempted in their program of study.

Scope

Regulations require a student's progress for financial aid purposes to be measured both quantitatively and qualitatively. In addition to a student's cumulative grade point average, students are also required to pass a percentage of all attempted coursework, and to complete their program of study within the maximum time frame established by the institution. To reasonably measure a student's academic progress for financial aid, the student's academic record will be evaluated including credit hours earned at other post-secondary institutions and transferred into the student's program of study at SCC. This requirement applies to all students who apply for financial assistance from Federal, State and Institutional Aid.

For students receiving financial aid, Satisfactory Academic Progress will be reviewed at the end of each semester of enrollment. Students who have attended SCC in the past without receiving financial aid will be evaluated at the time they apply for financial aid. Students who were previously enrolled under a Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy other than the current Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy will be required to meet the standards of the current policy upon returning. There is no requirement in the federal regulations for institutions to notify students who are not applying for or receiving Title IV, HEA aid of their eligibility under SAP.

Standards of Progress

To receive financial aid, the student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress toward an eligible program of study. There are two standards in the Financial Aid Office's standards of progress that students receiving financial aid must meet in order to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress:

Qualitative Standard: The minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) requirement the student must maintain to receive and/or continue receiving financial aid assistance is **2.0**. This includes all degree, diploma and certificate programs.

Quantitative Standard: 67 % Completion Rate and 150% Maximum Time Frame (Normal rounding rules apply. Example: 66.5% = 67%)

Foundation Courses: Courses taken at SCC and numbered less than 100 are included in GPA calculations for SAP, as well as when calculating the 67% Completion Rate. One academic year of credit (30 credit hours) may be added for required foundation coursework when calculating the 150% Maximum Time Frame. Only 30 credits of foundation coursework will be included in a student's enrollment status for federal financial aid.

When calculating the cumulative GPA for foundation courses, a P grade is the equivalent of a 0.0 grade. A grade of F (1.0) is calculated as a 0.0 grade. A grade of W (0.0) is calculated as a 0.0 grade. A grade of I (0.0) is calculated as a 0.0 grade. A grade of S (0.0) is calculated as a 0.0 grade. A grade of U (0.0) is calculated as a 0.0 grade. A grade of AU (0.0) is calculated as a 0.0 grade. A grade of A (4.0) is calculated as a 4.0 grade. A grade of B (3.0) is calculated as a 3.0 grade. A grade of C (2.0) is calculated as a 2.0 grade. A grade of D (1.0) is calculated as a 1.0 grade. A grade of F (0.0) is calculated as a 0.0 grade. A grade of W (0.0) is calculated as a 0.0 grade. A grade of I (0.0) is calculated as a 0.0 grade. A grade of S (0.0) is calculated as a 0.0 grade. A grade of U (0.0) is calculated as a 0.0 grade. A grade of AU (0.0) is calculated as a 0.0 grade.

Warning Near Maximum Time Frame: Students

Title IV eligibility, the student must meet SCC's SAP standards or the requirement of an established individual academic plan that will ensure that the student is able to meet SAP standards by a specific time prior to graduation.

Denied Appeals: If your appeal is denied or if you do not meet the conditions of an approved appeal, you will be asked to attend at your own expense until you achieve the required completion rate, GPA, or both (you cannot make up a deficiency if your appeal was due to exceeding the maximum timeframe to earn a degree).

Second Appeals: A second appeal may be considered but you will not be allowed to submit it for the same issue that led to the first appeal, such as the same medical condition.

If a student disagrees with the determination by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee, the student may appeal their decision to the Vice President of Student Services. This appeal must be submitted in writing within five (5) business days from the date of the letter from the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. The decision of the Vice President of Student Services is final.

NOTE: All notices regarding your academic progress for financial aid purposes will be sent to your SCC student email account. You are responsible for monitoring this mailbox.

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