

Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

General Policy Statement

Maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress is one of many federally mandated criteria viewed in determining a student's eligibility for continued receipt of financial aid. In order to remain eligible, a student must meet both a quantitative (credit hours) and qualitative (grade point average) standard. Students must also demonstrate a progression toward completion of their degree program within an established timeframe.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Review

Student Financial Services will conduct a review of Satisfactory Academic Progress at the end of each academic year. Undergraduate students enrolled during the Fall and/or Spring semester will have their academic progress reviewed during the month of May. Undergraduate students, whose academic year of enrollment continues into the Summer term, will have their progress reviewed at the end of their enrollment period. Summer term is viewed as a trailer or extension of the academic year for undergraduate students. Some graduate students; however, will begin a Borrower Based Award Year during the Summer; therefore, Summer term will be viewed as a header or the beginning of their academic year. In this instance, a graduate student's academic progress will be reviewed at the end of a completed Borrower Based award year (Summer and Fall term).

Non-Financial Aid Recipients

Students who have not received financial aid in previous years, but are applying for financial assistance for the first time will also be held to the requirement of maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress. Satisfactory Academic Progress is reviewed for all semesters of a student's enrollment regardless of whether the student was eligible for financial assistance during a term.

Financial Aid Programs Affected

Financial Aid programs which are affected by the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy include (but are not limited to) Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, Federal Work Study, Federal Perkins loan, Federal Stafford loan, Federal PLUS loan, Alternative loans, State and University Grant Assistance (need-based, merit, or endowed funds).

Full-Time Undergraduate Students

Undergraduate students who continue enrollment in the University, but who fail to maintain the minimum grade point average during any period of enrollment, will be ineligible for financial aid until the cumulative grade point average reaches the minimum level, as described below.

Academic Year Completed		<i>Quantitative Standard</i>	<i>Qualitative Standard</i>
		Minimum Credit Hours Required	Minimum Grade Point Average
First Year	First Semester	12 Hours	1.80
	Second Semester	24 Hours	1.80
Second Year	Third Semester	39 Hours	1.90
	Fourth Semester	54 Hours	1.90
Third Year	Fifth Semester	69 Hours	1.95
	Sixth Semester	84 Hours	1.95
Fourth Year	Seventh Semester	99 Hours	2.00
	Eighth Semester	114 ⁺ Hours	2.00

Note: Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average to continue receipt of Virginia State Grant assistance from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

Half-Time Undergraduate Students

Students enrolled at half-time status are required to maintain a minimum of 6 credit hours or the equivalent of half-time within their school, and maintain a grade point average consistent with the requirement for full-time enrolled students. Half-time students must also complete all coursework attempted during the semester.

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS)

At the end of an academic year (including Summer), each student will be required to complete a minimum 9 credit hours (3 credit hours per term) with a grade point average of 1.8 during the first two semesters, 1.9 during the third and fourth semesters and at least a 2.0 during the fifth semester and beyond. BIS students (half-time) are required to complete all coursework attempted.

Graduate Students

Graduate students enrolled in a Standard Academic Year (Fall and Spring term) will be required to complete a minimum of 18 credit hours (9 credit hours per term) with a grade point average of 3.0 at the end of an award year. Students enrolled in a Borrower Based Academic Year (Summer and Fall or Spring and Summer) will be required to complete the minimum credit hours required for full-time enrollment per term (ex. summer-6 credits & fall-9 credits = Borrower Based Academic Year-15credits required) with a grade point average of 3.0 at the end of an award year. Graduate students enrolled at half-time status must complete all coursework attempted.

Length of Enrollment

Students are required to complete their program of study within a reasonable timeframe based on the average length of their program. Students who fail to complete their program of study within 150% of the average program length will be ineligible for federal, state and institutional assistance.

<i>Academic Standing</i>	<i>Average Number of Semesters/Credit Hours Enrolled</i>	<i>Maximum Semesters of Enrollment/Credit Hours At 150% of Completion</i>
Undergraduate Student (Full-Time)	8 Semesters / 120 credit hours	Up to 12 Semesters or 180 credit hours
Undergraduate Student (Half-Time)	Students must complete their degree program within the time-frame established for full-time students.	Students must complete their degree program within the time-frame established for full-time students.
Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS)	The BIS program allows their students 22 semesters (including Summer) to complete their degree.	On average, a BIS student will be able to earn the required 60 credits for graduation within 20 semesters, at 3 credits per term; however, the program allows for 22 semesters of enrollment.
Master's Degree Candidate	6 Semesters / Credit hours requirement established by individual academic program	Up to 9 Semesters / Credit hours requirement established by individual academic program
Doctoral Degree Candidate	14 Semesters / Credit hour requirement established by individual academic program	Up to 21 Semesters / Credit hours requirement established by individual academic program

Note: Students will only be eligible for Virginia State Grant assistance (State Council of Higher Education for Virginia) for a maximum of 8 semesters of enrollment.

Summer Session Coursework

For the purpose of Satisfactory Academic Progress, Summer session is considered an optional semester for Undergraduate students. Credit hours attempted during the Summer session count toward the student's cumulative credit hours, but do not count as a semester toward the maximum semesters allowed.

BIS students are expected to enroll during the Summer session; therefore, coursework attempted during this term will count toward the student's cumulative credit hours and maximum semesters allowed.

Graduate student taking coursework during a Borrower Base Award year that ends or begin with Summer, will count toward the cumulative credit hours and maximum semesters allowed.

Individual Schools' Academic Progress Standards

In addition to the above Satisfactory Academic Progress standards, each school will have additional conditions (such as area requirements and major requirements) that must be fulfilled to remain "in good standing." As a result, even though a student may meet the minimum requirements for continued receipt of financial aid, the student may not be permitted to continue enrollment because of failure to remain in good standing in their school.

Financial Aid Probation

Students who, for the first time, have failed to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress will be placed on financial aid probation and will maintain their eligibility for financial aid until the end of the academic year. At the end of the probationary period, the student must meet the minimum credit hour and/or grade point average requirement. Students who fail to meet the minimum requirement at the end of the probationary period will lose their eligibility for future financial aid.

Example of Financial Aid Probation:

Fall Term Probation	Students applying for aid during the Fall term will be eligible for financial aid during the Fall and Spring term of the academic year.
Spring Term Probation	Students applying for aid for the first time during the Spring term will only be eligible for financial aid during the spring term of the academic year.

Re-Establishing Eligibility

Students who fail to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress may re-establish their eligibility for financial assistance through attendance at Summer session or at their own expense, during the Fall and Spring semester. Neither sitting out a semester nor the student paying for classes will re-establish eligibility. Once the student has earned the required grade point average or completed the required credit hours, they must contact Student Financial Services to request the reinstatement of their financial aid eligibility.

Right of Financial Aid Appeal

Students who fail to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress will have the right of appeal. A Satisfactory Academic Progress Petition must be submitted to Student Financial Services to request a consideration of unusual or mitigating circumstances (i.e. death of a parent(s) or relative, serious personal illness, emotional stress, etc.). The Satisfactory Academic Progress Petition must be completed by the student and signed by a Dean or Academic Advisor. In all cases, the appeal must be submitted with supporting documentation.

Examples of Supporting Documentation:

- Death of a parent or relative** - Copy of Death Certificate or Obituary
- Serious personal illness** – Statement from Physician
- Emotional stress** – Statement from Academic Advisor, Counselor
or other third party professional

Probationary Students

Financial Aid Probationary students are not required to appeal. However, probationary students who fail to make satisfactory progress at the end of a probation period and have lost their eligibility for future financial assistance may submit a Satisfactory Academic Progress Petition to appeal for reconsideration of their eligibility. If the student successfully makes up the deficiency, he or she will automatically be taken off probation.

Financial Aid Appeal Committee

The Financial Aid Appeal Committee will review all Satisfactory Academic Progress Petitions and supporting documentation. The outcome of the review will depend upon the nature of the circumstances causing the deficiency, how well it is documented, and how well the student has demonstrated that he or she is making progress toward earning a degree. The Financial Aid Appeal Committee's decision is final and cannot be appealed.