

FINANCIAL AID Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Federal regulations require that students must be making “Satisfactory Academic Progress” (SAP) to remain eligible for all federal student financial aid programs. These programs include the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, the College Work-Study Program, the Pell Grant, and Federal student loans. In accordance with Federal guidelines, the college has established a framework for evaluating a student’s efforts to achieve an educational goal (such as a certificate or degree) within a given period of time.

- Students must be attending all classes and be in good standing at the time grants and loans are disbursed.
- A student must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 1.75 for the first semester at any post-secondary institution and a cumulative GPA of 2.0 for all other semesters.
- Students must complete enough hours each semester to maintain the level or status for which they are paid. For example, if a student is paid on full-time he/she must complete 12 or more hours. Three-quarter time, 9-11 hours; half-time, 6-8 hours; and less than half time, 1-5 hours.
- Students must complete 70% of their overall attempted coursework. For example, if a student attempted 12 credit hours and completed 9 hours, their completion rate would be 75%. This is known as PACE.
- Intersession courses will be included in the prior semester’s SAP evaluation. An incomplete grade will be considered the same as a withdrawal. Students will be allowed 96 credit hours to complete their course work and receive aid.

If in the first semester a student does not maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress, that student will be placed on Warning status for the next enrolled semester and may still receive aid. Financial aid Warning status applies to the next enrolled semester following the semester the student was determined as not making Satisfactory Academic Progress. Students may continue to receive financial aid while on Warning status. To remove Warning status, the student must reinstate his/her academic good-standing per the minimum criteria of our Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy as stated below:

- Maintain a minimum of 2.0 (C) cumulative GPA
- Students must complete enough hours each semester to maintain the level or status for which they are paid.
- If on warning for PACE, student must complete all attempted hours; no withdraws, incompletes or grades of “F”.

Please always contact the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing from any classes! If a student does not complete the above criteria after being placed on Warning status, that student will then be placed on Suspension and will not receive any financial aid funding until Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy standards are met. Students denied aid due to Suspension status must take courses at FSCC at their own expense for two full time semesters and until minimum academic standards are achieved.

Students may appeal their Satisfactory Academic Progress status of Suspension by submitting a written appeal form to the Financial Aid Office. SAP Appeal Forms are available on the FSCC website and must be submitted with appropriate documentation. Appeals are reviewed by the SAP Committee and their decision or recommendation is final. Students will be notified via their FSCC student email by the Financial Aid Office of the SAP Committee’s decision.

If the appeal is denied, the student will remain on Suspension and must pay for their education costs at their own expense. If the student is denied aid based on his/her academic progress, then that denial takes precedence over any previous award notification the student may have received. A student whose financial aid eligibility has been revoked because of unsatisfactory academic progress must complete, without financial aid, two full-time semesters and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and all other SAP requirements.

If the appeal is approved, the student’s financial aid eligibility will be reinstated with a Probation status and the student must adhere to an Academic Plan. The committee does have the authority to set specific Academic Plans for students. Failure to maintain SAP while on Probation will result in denial of aid without the opportunity to appeal.