



GRADUATE FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

2009-2010

Federal regulations require that institutions of higher education establish minimum standards of "Satisfactory Academic Progress" for potential and current financial aid recipients. Financial Aid Applicants must comply with the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy as a condition of initial or continued eligibility. Please note that your prior academic progress will be measured to determine your eligibility. Our office will review SAP at the end of each semester.

Financial aid programs which are affected by the SAP Policy include the **Federal Direct Stafford Loans and State grants/scholarships.**

Satisfactory Academic Progress for graduates is measured in three areas: **maintaining a satisfactory cumulative grade point average, successfully completing a required percentage of attempted credits, and receiving a degree within a maximum timeframe.**

Minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average Requirement

Graduate students must maintain the required cumulative grade point average of **at least a 3.00.**

Minimum Credit Requirement

All graduate students must have successfully completed at least **67%** of all credits attempted at SU.

How do I calculate my percentage completed?

An attempted credit includes graded courses (A, B, B+, C, C+, D, F,) and non graded courses (I, AU, W, WF, WP, NR, IP, RA, RB, RB+, RC, RC+, RD, RF, and Departmental Challenge Exams)

To calculate the percentage of credits you have completed, total all attempted SU credits and total all completed SU credits. (See the **Repeat Course** section in the University Catalog for further information regarding repeating of courses) Then, divide the number of completed credits by the number of attempted credits.

$$\text{Total Completed Credits} / \text{Total Attempted Credits} = \text{Percentage Completed}$$

Students placed on probation after the first occurrence for one or both of the above requirements (Minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average/Minimum Credit Requirement) must meet all SAP requirements after the next consecutive semester or financial aid eligibility will be terminated.

Maximum Time Frame Requirement

The federal government requires a graduate student to obtain his/her degree within a given time frame to remain eligible to receive financial aid. A student is allowed to have attempted up to 150% of the required credits for a graduate degree and still receive financial aid. The published length for a student to obtain his/her degree varies according to the degree sought. Refer to the SU Catalogue to determine the published length required for the degree you are seeking.

What Counts as Attempted Credits?

An attempted credit includes graded courses (A, B, B+, C, C+, D, F,), non graded courses (I, AU, W, WF, WP, NR, IP, RA, RB, RB+, RC, RC+, RD, RF, and Departmental Challenge Exams) and all transfer credits accepted by SU.

Ex. John has 3 transfer credits accepted by SU and had registered for 9 credits at SU for the fall 2007 semester but only obtained 6 credits at the conclusion of the fall 2007 semester. His attempted credits are 12.

A financial aid eligibility termination letter will be sent to those students who have attempted more than 150% of the required credits necessary to obtain a degree.

Appeal Process

If a student is placed on probation, he or she does not need to appeal, because financial aid eligibility has not been revoked. A student who has had his/her financial aid eligibility terminated has the right to make a written appeal if extenuating circumstances exist and can be documented.

Additional Information

Academic dismissal or disciplinary suspension from SU will result in the automatic cancellation of financial aid eligibility.

Only matriculating (formally admitted) students can receive financial aid.

Students ceasing attendance at SU, either officially by withdrawing through the Registrar's Office or unofficially by dropping out, will have their financial aid adjusted in accordance with the Federal Return of Title IV Funds Refund Policy.