

## Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

## University of Cincinnati Student Financial Aid Office

Federal financial aid funds are awarded with the understanding that students will make progress toward their chosen degree. The University of Cincinnati, as directed by the U.S. Department of Education, has established guidelines (Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress) to follow in order to meet this goal.

Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress apply for the following types of federal financial aid: Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), TEACH Grant, Federal Work-Study, Federal Perkins Loan, Nursing Loan, Health Professions Loan, Federal Subsidized Loan, Federal Unsubsidized Loan, Federal Graduate PLUS Loan, and Federal Parent PLUS Loan.

Although this policy is required for federal aid, it is also used as a standard for eligibility in receiving other aid sources including the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG), tuition remission, many alternative educational loans, and other financial aid programs.

While the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy is a *minimum* requirement to maintain financial aid eligibility, students are encouraged to work closely with academic advisers and college personnel to achieve their educational goals. Good financial planning includes selecting meaningful coursework, completing all registered classes with satisfactory grades, and seeking your degree in a timely, intentional manner.

### Policy Standards

The Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress measures three components. Students must meet all three components to maintain their financial aid eligibility.

1. **Grade Point Average:** After the second year of enrollment, undergraduate students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative university GPA. Graduate and professional students must always meet the GPA requirement for their program.
2. **Maximum Timeframe:** Students are required to complete their degree within one-and-a-half times the length of their program's published hour requirement (i.e., within 90 semester hours for most associate degrees and 180 semester hours for most bachelor's degrees).
3. **Pace of Progress:** To ensure that students earn a degree within the maximum timeframe allowed, students must show a *minimum* completion rate of 67% of classes attempted.

Notes:

- I's (incomplete), T's (audit), Y's or UW's (unofficial withdrawal), W's (official withdrawal), X's or WX's (non-attendance/participation), N's, NG's or blanks (no grade reported), U's (unsatisfactory), NP's (not proficient), IP's (in progress), UP's (unsatisfactory progress), I/F's (failed incomplete), IP/F's (failed in progress), and F's (failing grade) do not count toward meeting completion percentage.
- All terms of attendance are reviewed including terms no federal aid was received.
- All hours through the initial bachelor's degree are counted cumulatively including when changing majors, repeating coursework, receiving academic fresh start, and seeking a bachelor's degree after pursuing an associate degree.
- All hours accepted in as transfer credit will be used to calculate timeframe and pace measures.
- Students in programs a year or less in length are reviewed each term.

### Appeal Procedures

At the end of spring term each year, the academic records of all students who are receiving or applying for federal financial aid will be reviewed. Those students who fail to meet the Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress will be notified that they are no longer eligible to receive financial aid funds.

Students have the following options available to restore their eligibility:

1. Make up any deficient hours by raising your overall completion rate to at least 67% and/or bring up college GPA to a 2.0 without the use of federal funds or through grade changes.  
-or-
2. Complete a full-time equivalent term with a 2.0 GPA without the use of federal funds. A student may complete multiple part-time terms with a 2.0 GPA to total the full-time equivalency in credit hours.  
-or-
3. Submit a written appeal if the failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress was due to extenuating circumstances (including how the situation has changed to allow progress).

Written notification of completing options 1 or 2 or an appeal based on option 3 should be submitted to Academic Progress Appeals at [academic.progress@uc.edu](mailto:academic.progress@uc.edu). Submissions should detail efforts in achieving options above or the extenuating circumstance and a specific plan to enhance future academic performance.

Following submission of notification or appeal, the student's aid eligibility will once again be reviewed. If aid eligibility is reinstated, the student's record will then be reviewed each term to ensure specified requirements for retaining aid eligibility are being met or until the student has once again established eligibility in meeting all three components of the policy.

If a student fails to re-establish eligibility in an appeal, eligibility can be sought through options 1 and 2 above unless aid eligibility has been denied due to exceeding maximum timeframe for the academic program.