



## **Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy 2024-2025**

Federal Regulations require students to make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) towards the successful completion of their degree or certificate program in order to receive federal financial aid. Federal financial aid programs include the Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Work-Study and Direct Loans. A student's satisfactory academic progress is calculated at the end of the fall, spring and summer semesters and the student will receive notification via their NWACC email account.

Satisfactory academic progress is measured Qualitatively (GPA) and Quantitatively (hours). Students must meet the following:

Qualitative:

1. Grade Point Average (GPA): 2.00 cumulative Institutional GPA

Quantitative:

2. 67% overall course completion rate. Course completion rate is calculated by dividing the cumulative units earned including transfer hours by cumulative units attempted including transfer hours.
3. Students may receive financial aid up to 150 percent of the published credit hour length of their declared program of study. For example, the maximum timeframe for a program of study that requires 60 credit hours is 90 credit hours ( $60 \times 1.5=90$ ).
4. Pace of Progress: be able to complete their degree or certificate within the maximum timeframe

### **Undetermined**

An Undetermined SAP status is assigned to first time entering freshman for their first semester. Undetermined may also be temporarily assigned to continuing and transfer students prior to an official SAP calculation.

### **Financial Aid Warning**

Beginning with the summer 2023 semester, a student who fails to meet the cumulative minimum GPA or course completion rate at the end of a semester will be placed on Financial Aid Warning. A warning semester will not be granted for unsuccessful semesters attempted prior to summer 2023. A student on Financial Aid Warning may continue to receive federal financial aid for the warning semester.

At the end of the warning semester, if the student has:

1. Met the cumulative GPA and course completion rate requirements the student will earn a SAP status of met and will continue to receive federal financial aid.
2. Not met the cumulative GPA and course completion rate requirements the student will earn a SAP status of failed and will no longer be eligible for federal financial aid.

### **Financial Aid Exclusion**

- Students who fail to meet the Pace or Maximum credit hour requirements are automatically placed on Financial Aid Exclusion and are not eligible for federal student aid.
- Students who fail to meet the cumulative minimum standards at the end of their warning semester will be placed on Financial Aid Exclusion and are not eligible for federal student aid.
- Students on an approved academic plan will return to a failed SAP status if they fail to meet the conditions of their signed appeal agreement.
  - To be eligible to appeal a second time, the student must successfully complete a minimum of six credit hours with a "C" or higher in all classes. The six hours must include classes that did not meet the minimum grade requirement of the approved appeal and are required for the degree plan.

## **Regaining SAP**

Students may reestablish financial aid eligibility by:

1. Successfully complete course work on their own until the minimum standards are met, or
2. Successfully appeal the failed SAP status

Students who fail to meet the Pace or Maximum credit hour requirements cannot regain by taking coursework on their own. Their only option to regain is to successfully appeal their Failed SAP status.

## **Financial Aid Appeal**

All students who fail to meet any of the four minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements are eligible to appeal their failed SAP status if they have a documented extenuating circumstance.

## **Financial Aid Appeal Process**

The SAP appeal process is only available for the fall semester. Students receiving a failed SAP status for the spring 2024 semester will receive a To Do in Workday to start the appeal process. If you have a failed SAP status for a semester prior to spring 2024, you must reach out to the Enrollment Support Center and request to have the SAP appeal process initiated for you. Check our webpage for more information and dates:

<https://www.nwacc.edu/enrollment/financialaid/formspolicies/satisfactoryacademicprogress.aspx>

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals are reviewed by a Financial Aid Appeals Committee. The student will be sent a response to their NWACC email account. Students may only submit an appeal two times for separate extenuating circumstances. The decision of the Appeal's Committee is final.

## **Academic Plan**

Approved appeal students will be placed on an academic plan. The academic plan ensures the student can either regain eligibility or successfully complete their program of study.

## **Financial Aid Probation**

Students who have an approved appeal will be placed on Financial Aid Probation. Students may receive financial aid while on Probation and if they are meeting the terms of their signed appeal agreement.

## **Additional Information:**

- College transcripts received during a semester in which the student has already begun attendance will be calculated as part of the student's satisfactory academic progress for the following semester.
- Course completion rates are not rounded up; for example, 66.5% is not rounding up to 67%.
- All attempted or transferred coursework are counted in the SAP calculation. Hours are included in the calculation regardless if financial aid was received for the courses or not.
- It is the student's responsibility to notify the Enrollment Support Center of any grade changes.
- When a student repeats a course, the highest grade earned is computed in the refigured cumulative grade point average; however, all repeated classes are counted as attempted and only the highest graded class is counted as completed.
- A student may repeat a failed course two times.
- A student may repeat a course with a grade of "D" or higher only one time.
- Financial Aid is not awarded for courses that are audited.
- Incomplete grades are counted as attempted but not completed hours and are counted in the student's GPA as an "F".
- For federal and state aid purposes, withdrawals are counted as attempted but not completed hours and have a zero GPA.
- Financial Aid will be awarded for up to 30 credit hours of remedial course work. Remedial coursework is counted in the student's attempted/completed hours and GPA.
- ENGC classes are federal aid eligible and are counted in the student's course completion rate and GPA.
- Students who change their degree and/or majors or who are pursuing a second degree are subject to the maximum number of hours attempted and PACE rule.
- Federal Regulations allow students to receive federal aid for only courses required on the student's declared degree plan with NWACC. The Financial Aid Processing Team goes by the degree plan on file prior to the start of the semester.