

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
STANDARDS OF SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY
FOR FEDERAL TITLE IV STUDENT FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS

REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Federal Regulations require that The University of Akron review the academic progress of students applying for and/or receiving federal Title IV student financial aid. **This rule applies to all students applying for aid, whether or not financial aid has been received previously.** Students' progress will be checked prior to the initial receipt of financial aid and at the end of each semester. If it is determined that you are not making satisfactory academic progress toward your degree, you will no longer be eligible to receive federal Title IV student financial aid based on the policies and procedures that follow. There are both a quantitative (maximum time frame/completion rate) and a qualitative (grade point average) measure in determining satisfactory academic progress for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.

PROGRAMS AFFECTED	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Federal Pell Grant (2) Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) (3) Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) (4) National Science, Mathematics to Retain Talented Students Grant (SMART) (5) Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH) (6) Federal Work-Study Program (FWSP) (7) Federal Perkins Loan (FPL) (8) Nursing Student Loan (NSL) (9) Federal Stafford Loans, Subsidized and Unsubsidized (10) Federal Plus Loan (PLUS) 														
MINIMUM HOURS TO BE COMPLETED	<p>Students must <u>successfully complete</u> a minimum of 70% (rounded down) of the total number of hours for which they are enrolled on the 15th day of the semester/term. All courses for which you are registered on that day are counted as an attempted course whether you withdraw from, receive a failing grade for, or otherwise fail to complete the course. A cumulative (all attempted coursework) completion rate of 70% must also be maintained. To determine the number of credit hours you are required to successfully complete during the semester/term (or cumulatively) to remain in compliance, multiply the number of hours for which you are/have enrolled on the 15th day by 0.70. For example:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Registered (Attempted) Hours</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Required Hours to be Completed</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4 (70% X 6=4.2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8 (70% X 12=8.4)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11 (70% X 16=11.2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">32</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22 (70% X 32=22.4)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">75</td> <td style="text-align: center;">52 (70% X 75=52.5)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">112</td> <td style="text-align: center;">78 (70% X 112=78.4)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Successful completion of a course, for purposes of the Satisfactory Academic Progress calculation, are grades of A, B, C, D*, or CR. All other grades, including Withdrawals (W, WD) and Incompletes will not be counted as a successful completion.</p> <p>*Students taking Developmental Courses only or a combination of Developmental and regular courses must successfully complete the required percentage also. Grades of A, B, C, and CR are acceptable grades for completion of Developmental Courses. <u>Grades of D and F are not acceptable for Developmental Courses, however these grades will be calculated as part of your GPA for the term.</u> A student may take no more than 30 hours of Developmental Courses while receiving federal Title IV student financial aid.</p> <p>Incomplete (I) or In-Progress (IP) grades are counted as <u>unsuccessful attempts</u>. Once an I or IP has been changed to an A, B, C, D, or CR, it can be added to the number of hours completed for the term of the original registration. <u>It is the student's responsibility to notify the Office of Student Financial Aid once an I or IP has been changed to a valid grade.</u></p>	<u>Registered (Attempted) Hours</u>	<u>Required Hours to be Completed</u>	6	4 (70% X 6=4.2)	12	8 (70% X 12=8.4)	16	11 (70% X 16=11.2)	32	22 (70% X 32=22.4)	75	52 (70% X 75=52.5)	112	78 (70% X 112=78.4)
<u>Registered (Attempted) Hours</u>	<u>Required Hours to be Completed</u>														
6	4 (70% X 6=4.2)														
12	8 (70% X 12=8.4)														
16	11 (70% X 16=11.2)														
32	22 (70% X 32=22.4)														
75	52 (70% X 75=52.5)														
112	78 (70% X 112=78.4)														
GRADE POINT AVERAGE	<p>Your grade point average must be equal to, or higher than, the standard established by The University College. The specific requirements are as follows:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Hours Attempted</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>GPA Required</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">0 – 16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">16.1 – 32</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">32.1 – 48</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">48.1+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Hours Attempted</u>	<u>GPA Required</u>	0 – 16	1.25	16.1 – 32	1.50	32.1 – 48	1.75	48.1+	2.00				
<u>Hours Attempted</u>	<u>GPA Required</u>														
0 – 16	1.25														
16.1 – 32	1.50														
32.1 – 48	1.75														
48.1+	2.00														
HOURS ATTEMPTED (MAXIMUM TIME FRAME)	<p>Students are required to complete their degree requirements within a specified time frame. Federal regulations require that students complete their degree program by the time they have attempted 150% of the hours normally required for completion of the degree. For example, a program that requires a total of 128 credit hours must be completed by the time students have attempted 192 credit hours (128 x 150%). Programs requiring 64 credit hours must be completed by the time students have attempted 96 credit hours (64 x 150%).</p> <p>For transfer students, academic progress will be reviewed to determine the status of each student in relationship to his/her program's maximum time frame. Once transfer credits are posted, they will be considered in our next satisfactory academic progress review. Transfer hours will be included in the cumulative number of hours earned and attempted.</p> <p>The 150% maximum time frame allowance for completion of the program is intended to be long enough to allow for changes in major, loss of credit due to transfer, withdrawn coursework, minors, double majors, etc.; therefore no extensions of the maximum time frame will be granted for those reasons.</p>														

IF YOU DO NOT MEET THE STANDARDS OF SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

Students who fail to meet the Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress will lose eligibility for the federal Title IV student financial aid programs. They will be notified, in writing, of this action. In addition, they will be provided the opportunity to appeal this decision based on mitigating circumstances that may have occurred during the year or semester that could not have been anticipated (see below).

APPEAL PROCESS

Students who have lost eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid may appeal that decision by following the procedures outlined below. Those wishing to utilize this process must be able to document mitigating circumstances that occurred during the course of the year/semester in question, that could not have been anticipated prior to that period, and that adversely affected their ability to successfully complete their required coursework. Events such as the death of an immediate family member, extended illness suffered by the student, or other unforeseeable events that may have caused significant hardship for the student may be considered as examples of mitigating circumstances.

If you wish to file an appeal:

1. Complete the Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form, which will be mailed to you upon notification of your loss of eligibility, or which is available in the Office of Student Financial Aid.
2. Attach complete third party documentation from a reputable source (e.g. doctor, counselor, family services, police, etc.) that has knowledge of both your personal situation and of the mitigating circumstances that you are claiming. **Documentation should not only indicate the mitigating circumstances that caused you to have academic problems during the semester/term, but also must clearly indicate that the circumstances that caused the problems have been rectified so that you will be able to be successful in future terms. Appeals submitted without the proper third party documentation will not be reviewed and will be returned to you.**
3. If you choose to do so, complete the Appeal Process immediately after receiving notification of loss of eligibility so as to minimize the time during which your financial aid status is in question. **You may wish to make alternative arrangements with Student Accounts, e.g. the Installment Payment Plan, for holding your classes while a decision on your Appeal is being rendered.**
4. In most cases, the Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee will render a decision within 2 weeks of our receipt of a fully completed Appeal Form (with appropriate documentation).
5. Mail or drop off the completed Appeal Form and documentation to:

Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee
Office of Student Financial Aid
The University of Akron
Akron, OH 44325-6211

Students whose appeals have been approved by the Committee will be placed on **Financial Aid Probation** status. Students will remain in that status as long as they successfully complete 70% (rounded down) of their semester coursework with the required minimum Grade Point Average for their total attempted hours, or until they regain **full eligibility** (see below). Students who fail to make Satisfactory Academic Progress while in **Financial Aid Probation** status will again lose all eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid. Although students may utilize the Appeal Process again if this occurs, in most cases, the same mitigating circumstances used in previous appeals may not be used again. The Committee will also take the number of prior Appeals submitted into consideration when reviewing subsequent appeals. Students whose appeals are not approved will be placed in **Ineligible** status

REGAINING FULL ELIGIBILITY

Students who have been placed in **Financial Aid Probation** or **Ineligible** status may regain full eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid by successfully completing coursework while in that status that will raise their cumulative Grade Point Average to meet or exceed the minimum required for their total attempted hours, and raise their overall Cumulative Completion Rate for all coursework attempted to the 70% (rounded down) level.

Students who are **Ineligible** to receive federal Title IV student financial aid may use one or more of the following payment options while attempting to regain eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid:

1. Student's own resources
2. Ohio Instructional Grant Program or Ohio College Opportunity Grant (if eligible)
3. University of Akron Installment Payment Plan (IPP)
4. Private Alternative Educational Loan Programs

Students who have taken the necessary measures to regain eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs should contact the Office of Student Financial Aid immediately upon doing so and apply for **Reinstatement of Eligibility**. Students' academic performance will then be reviewed, and, if all required Satisfactory Academic Progress criteria are met, **full eligibility** for federal Title IV student financial aid will be reinstated, effective the following semester.