

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

REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

These rules and regulations are subject to change.

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 quantitative (maximum time frame/completion rate) and qualitative (grade point average) measures in determining satisfactory academic progress for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.

PROGRAMS AFFECTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Federal Pell Grant (2) Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) (3) Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH) (4) Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (5) Federal Work-Study Program (FWSP) (6) Nursing Student Loan (NSL) (7) Federal Direct Loans, Subsidized and Unsubsidized (8) Federal Direct Plus Loan (PLUS) (9) Some Alternative loans 																				
PACE REVIEW	<p>Pace is calculated by dividing the total number of hours completed by the total number of hours attempted. To meet pace a student's pace must be equal to or greater than 67%. For example:</p> <p>Students must <u>successfully complete</u> a minimum of 67% of the total overall cumulative number of hours for which they are enrolled. The evaluation looks at classes enrolled on or after the 15th day of each term for cumulative total attempted hours. All cumulative courses for which you are registered are counted as an attempted course whether you withdraw from, receive a failing grade for, or otherwise fail to complete the course. To determine the number of credit hours you are required to successfully complete to remain in compliance, multiply the number of hours for which you have attempted by 0.67. For example:</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>Hours Completed</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Pace Calculation</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Standards Determination</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">$8/12 = 67\%$</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Meeting Pace</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">$11/16 = 69\%$</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Meeting Pace</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">50</td> <td style="text-align: center;">32</td> <td style="text-align: center;">$32/50 = 64\%$</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Not Meeting Pace</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">48</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40</td> <td style="text-align: center;">$40/48 = 83\%$</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Meeting Pace</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Successful completion of a course, for purposes of the Satisfactory Academic Progress calculation are grades of A thru 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</u> attempts. 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>Hours Attempted</u>	<u>Hours Completed</u>	<u>Pace Calculation</u>	<u>Standards Determination</u>	12	8	$8/12 = 67\%$	Meeting Pace	16	11	$11/16 = 69\%$	Meeting Pace	50	32	$32/50 = 64\%$	Not Meeting Pace	48	40	$40/48 = 83\%$	Meeting Pace
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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 Earned</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>GPA Required *</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">.5 or greater</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Developmental classes are assigned a grade point average for standards review purposes only. Your review will be based on the combined GPA of Developmental Coursework attempted and Cumulative GPA. The Hours Attempted in this calculation excludes: CR-Credit; NC-No Credit; AUD – Audit; WD – Withdrawn; RFAT – Repeat for Change of grade, Academic Reassessment, and DEV-Developmental hours, since they do not apply towards the degree program.</p>	<u>Hours Earned</u>	<u>GPA Required *</u>	.5 or greater	2.00																
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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>
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IF YOU DO NOT MEET THE STANDARDS OF SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students who fail to meet the Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress will lose eligibility for all 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 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. Appeals may not be granted for students who have previously appealed twice. In some instances, a student may be placed on a Standards Academic Plan/Contract until they bring their overall completion rate to 67% and their GPA to 2.0. They will remain on the contract until these deficiencies have been resolved.

If you wish to file an appeal:

1. Complete the Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form, which will be emailed to you upon notification of your loss of eligibility, or which is available in the Office of Student Financial Aid and at www.uakron.edu/finaid.

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 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 reviewed.**

4. Mail or drop off completed Appeal Form and documentation to:

Office of Student Financial Aid
The University of Akron
Akron, OH 44325-6211

Or **upload** your documents in the Upload Tool in the Student Center of My Akron (under "Finances") Upload Financial Aid Docs

Progression of Standards: All students initially start at an Eligible Status. If a student does not meet academic standards, upon their initial violation they will be placed in a Warning Status and will be eligible for aid for one semester only. If student does not meet standards again, they will be moved to Ineligible Status and have the option to appeal. Students whose appeals have been approved by the Committee will be placed on **Financial Aid Probation** status for one semester. 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 on **Ineligible Status** may regain full eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid by successfully completing coursework. The student must raise their cumulative Grade Point Average to meet or exceed the minimum required for their total attempted credits and meet the pace requirement.

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. The University of Akron Installment Payment Plan (IPP)
3. Private Alternative Educational Loan Programs, although some private lenders require the student to meet Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress policy requirements.

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.**