

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Office of Financial Aid, Oregon State University (Effective June 26, 2017)

Purpose

Oregon State University (OSU) is required to establish standards for measuring Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for students to be eligible for Title IV aid in accordance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by Congress. Although the academic progress standards set by the financial aid office are similar to those set by specific academic departments and/or university standards, the financial aid standards for SAP are not the same. A student must meet the requirements of the financial aid SAP policy to be eligible for federal, state and institutional financial aid assistance at OSU.

Overview

Financial aid recipients are expected to make reasonable academic progress to obtain a degree or certificate as a condition to be eligible for federal, state and institutional financial aid funding. A student's entire academic history as recorded on their academic record with OSU is reviewed as a requirement of timely progression toward graduation, regardless of having received financial aid or not in the past for that course work.

Satisfactory Academic Progress requires financial aid recipients to meet the following five components:

1. Meet minimum cumulative OSU grade point averages (GPA).
2. Satisfactorily complete at least 67% of cumulative credit hours attempted (Pace).
3. Complete a degree/certificate program within the maximum time frame of credit hours allowed (MTF).
4. Consistently complete: A student that does not successfully complete at least one (1) credit for two terms in the past four terms of attendance will be considered ineligible for further aid even if they are meeting Pace and GPA requirements..
5. A student that is suspended then reinstated at any time by the University will be considered ineligible for further aid even if they are meeting all other requirements.

Qualitative Measure Defined (GPA)

The qualitative measure is the OSU cumulative grade point average (GPA) measured at the end of each completed term of attendance. Student GPA requirements are 2.0 for undergraduate programs, 2.25 for DVM, 2.0 for PharmD, and 3.0 for all other graduate programs. Transfer credits (including credits earned at partner schools as part of the Degree Partnership Program) are not considered in the qualitative measure for GPA.

Quantitative Measure Defined (Pace)

The quantitative measure is the Pace at which a student is progressing towards degree completion and is summarized as the total number of credit hours successfully completed (passed) divided by the total number of credit hours attempted. Courses repeated for grade improvement (with previously earned credit) count only as credit hours attempted and therefore reduce the Pace completion percentage. Financial aid recipients must satisfactorily complete at least 67% of all cumulative credit hours attempted.

Federal financial aid regulations require that a student's entire academic credit history be considered in reviewing degree progression. Transfer credits from other colleges and universities will be considered in the number of attempted and passed hours, as well as college credit received while in high school.

Maximum Time Frame Defined (MTF)

A student is expected to complete one degree within a prescribed time frame. A student may not exceed 150% of published credit hours over the course of obtaining their degree. If the maximum program credit hours are exceeded, the student is considered financial aid ineligible. A student must be meeting SAP criteria for both Pace and GPA in order for their MTF appeal to be considered.

Undergraduate students, who add a second major to a degree before officially graduating but after the completion of requirements for a first degree, may be considered under post-baccalaureate status only for the remainder of the academic year; otherwise, a student that has satisfied the requirements for their first degree must be admitted as a post-baccalaureate degree seeking student. Sample degree programs and their maximum time frames:

| Degree Program | Maximum Time Frame |
|--|--------------------|
| First Bachelor's Degree | 270 |
| Bio, Chemical, or Environmental Engineering | 288 |
| International or Ed Double Degree | 318 |
| Forest-Civil Engineering Double Degree | 348 |
| Computer Science Double Degree | 360 |
| Sustainability or Innovation Mgmt Dbl Degree | 324 |

| Degree Program | Maximum Time Frame |
|--|--------------------|
| 2 nd or 3 rd Bachelor's Degree | 135 |
| Master's Degree | 127 |
| Ph.D. | 210 |
| Ph.D. College of Science | 285 |
| Doctor of Pharmacy | 246 |
| Doctor of VM | 265 |

Policy Implementation

Satisfactory Academic Progress is monitored at the end of each term, effective July 1, 2011.

A student is on financial aid **WARNING** if they have been eligible in the prior term but is now not meeting the qualitative (GPA) or quantitative (Pace) measures of this policy. A student on financial aid warning may continue to receive financial aid for one term despite a determination that the student is not making Satisfactory Academic Progress.

A student becomes **INELIGIBLE** for financial aid if in the term following a term defined as warning they fail to meet the qualitative (GPA) or quantitative (Pace) measures of the SAP policy, fail to complete at least one credit in two of the last four terms while meeting Pace and GPA, or were suspended and reinstated while meeting Pace and GPA or any combination thereof. This student may appeal their ineligible status.

A student whose appeal can be approved to meet SAP in one term of attendance will be defined as on **PROBATION**. This student may receive aid for one term, but then must meet the SAP policy in order to receive future terms of aid. A student that fails to meet SAP policy after a term on **PROBATION** will become aid **INELIGIBLE** until such time as they meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy or a new appeal has been approved.

A student that is unable to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy in one probationary term may submit an appeal that includes an academic plan approved by their academic advisor. The student may be approved for aid based on the terms of the academic plan. A student that has been approved to receive aid based on an academic plan must meet the terms of the plan each term; otherwise they become **INELIGIBLE** until such time as they meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy or a new appeal has been approved.

Termination of Aid

Students in an **INELIGIBLE** status to receive financial aid will be sent notification that future financial aid disbursements will be terminated. A student's current SAP status will be available to them through myOSU.

Re-Gaining Eligibility

Students in an **INELIGIBLE** status may regain eligibility as follows: enroll without the benefit of financial aid assistance and bring their academic record to the acceptable SAP requirements or submit a written appeal. Students meeting SAP policy following an ineligible status must notify the Office of Financial Aid that they are meeting the policy and request a review for reinstatement of aid.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Guidelines

Students who fail to meet these standards and lose eligibility for financial aid can appeal for reinstatement. The appeal must be prepared in writing and must be accompanied by the appropriate supporting documents as defined in the Financial Aid Office SAP appeal form. A student must be meeting SAP criteria for both Pace and GPA in order for a MTF appeal to be considered. A student must be able to meet both the required cumulative OSU GPA and the required minimum Pace (67%) before reaching the maximum timeframe (or graduating) in order to consider a GPA and/or Pace appeal. Complete appeals must be received by the end of week seven of the term the student is seeking reinstatement of aid. The Office of Financial Aid does not guarantee that documentation to complete an appeal, which is received after week seven, will be reviewed for the current term. Appeals received after week seven may be considered for future term reinstatement.

Students who have failed to meet the conditions of a probationary term or academic plan that was approved as part of a prior SAP appeal are subject to additional requirements in a subsequent appeal. The new appeal must include a new statement letter. The appeal must also have a new corresponding My Degrees academic plan for SAP that has been approved and locked by an academic advisor. An academic plan is required even in cases where only a single term is needed to meet SAP requirements when the appeal is for failure to meet the terms of the prior appeal. Only appeals that include significant new information will be considered.

A student whose appeal has been denied may appeal that decision to the Director of Financial Aid. The Director may defer to the Financial Aid Appeal Committee. Appeals will be considered by the Director/Committee when new evidence or a change in circumstances warrants a review of the appeal. The decision of the Director of Financial Aid and/or the Financial Aid Appeal Committee will be considered final.