



## I. Overview

One of the foundational eligibility criteria for federal (Title IV) aid requires that students are making “Satisfactory Academic Progress” (SAP). All degree-seeking students (both federal Title IV and non-Title IV recipients) will be evaluated for federal Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards. This policy treats all undergraduate students the same, regardless of program of study, full-time enrollment, or part-time enrollment, etc. Financial Aid will review each student’s academic progress annually at the end of each spring semester.

Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours based on percentage of work to be completed (quantitative) and maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (qualitative) consistent with the requirements for graduation in order to meet SAP standards. In addition, a student must complete their academic program within the maximum time frame (150% of their academic program.) For example, no student may continue more than six years as a full-time student in order to complete a 4 year degree. Student’s coursework will be reviewed for classes in which the student was enrolled past the census date.

The following table summarizes the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy requirements for maintaining eligibility for federal student aid:

Academic Progress Evaluation Methods (two separate criteria)		Hours Attempted			
		1–30.99	31–60.99	61–90.99	91+
Quantitative	$\frac{\text{Completed Hours}}{\text{Attempted Hours}} = \text{Percent (Pace)}$	67%	67%	67%	67%
Qualitative	Minimum cumulative GPA	1.70	1.90	2.00	2.00

Students who are considering withdrawing from courses during any point in the semester are **strongly encouraged to schedule an appointment with a financial aid counselor before taking any action.**

## II. Process

Students are evaluated for Satisfactory Academic Progress (minimum cumulative GPA, maximum time frame, and pace of completion) annually, which occurs at the end of each spring semester. Regardless of the credit hours a student attempted and for which aid was received, the student must meet the standards for maximum time frame, complete the percentage of work attempted, and have the appropriate cumulative grade point average as stipulated above.

### Unsuccessful Grade Marks/Incomplete:

In conjunction with and in addition to the academic policy listed in the University catalog, the grading marks F, I, Z, NR, and INC (Incomplete) will be considered in both the quantitative (percent completion and maximum time frame) and qualitative (GPA) analysis when completed according to the provisions in the University catalog. When an incomplete grade changes to another grade notation, that change will be picked up in the next SAP review.

In conjunction with and in addition to the academic policy listed in the University catalog, the grading marks of NC, NP, W, WP, and WF are not considered as successfully completing the course(s) attempted; therefore, the SAP analysis will consider the attempt of these courses in the quantitative (percent completion and maximum time frame) analysis but not in the qualitative (GPA) analysis.

### Repeated Courses / Auditing a Class:

All course attempts are averaged into the quantitative (percent completion and maximum time frame) assessment. Audit classes (AU) do not constitute hours attempted or completed. However, if a student enrolls in a course (for credit) and switches the class to an audit class, this will be calculated into the quantitative (percent completion and maximum time frame) analysis.

Aid recipients who fail to meet these “Satisfactory Academic Progress” criteria will see their **SAP status** designated “unsatisfactory”. Any student whose status is unsatisfactory is ineligible for any further federal and state financial aid until:

- Satisfactory Academic Progress status is reestablished OR
- An Unsatisfactory SAP appeal is approved based on a documented appeal for mitigating circumstances that affected academic progress (see section below: Method of Appeal)

### Notification of Unsatisfactory SAP Status:

The Financial Aid office will provide current SAP status information on the Self Service “financial aid” portal. In addition to this, students will be notified through their Cedarville email and/or a letter sent to their permanent address listed with the University.



### III. Transfer Students

Transfer students who have never attended Cedarville University and bring in transfer credits will have those hours count toward their current program as both hours attempted and earned. The transfer credits plus the credits received at Cedarville University will be used for the quantitative (percent completion and maximum time frame) analysis; however, only the grade point average earned at Cedarville will be assessed (qualitative).

### IV. How to Re-establish Eligibility

As stated above, the SAP evaluation is made for each student annually, which occurs at the end of each spring semester. If unsuccessful, the student's SAP status is considered Unsatisfactory. A student whose status is NSAP is ineligible for financial aid unless they submit an appeal and it is approved.

*An appeal must explain why the student failed to make satisfactory academic progress and what has changed in his or her situation that will allow him/her to make satisfactory academic progress at the next evaluation period. Reasons that may be considered for an appeal would include student injury or illness, death of a relative, or other special circumstance. Financial Aid may request additional documentation, such as a letter from a medical professional, confirmation of family death, or other information to substantiate your reasons for appeal.*

If a student's appeal is approved, he or she may be placed on **Financial Aid Probation** and can receive student financial aid for only one semester. At the end of the semester, the student must meet the criteria for satisfactory academic progress. If unsuccessful, the student is once again considered **Unsatisfactory** and is ineligible for aid. The student may appeal again, but the latter appeal must be based on a reason different from the first appeal.

Financial Aid, at its discretion, *may* place the student on an **Academic Plan**. This "Academic Plan" category stipulates that students must meet specific criteria within the plan itself. If the student meets the requisite requirement(s) but still does not meet the overall requirements of SAP, the student may continue to receive financial aid without an appeal for the next semester. After that semester, the student on an Academic Plan will again be reviewed to ensure they are either meeting the academic plan or meeting SAP standards overall.

A student may regain their eligibility by meeting federal SAP standards at a future annual review. If a student meets the qualitative and quantitative SAP standards at the end of a future annual review, Financial Aid will automatically reinstate their financial aid.

### V. Definitions

**Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)** – The student's GPA meets or exceeds the minimum standard required for continuing enrollment and graduation, the student has attempted less than 150 percent of the credit hours required to complete a degree, and the student has completed 67 percent or more of his or her attempted hours.

**Minimum cumulative GPA (qualitative)** – The grade point average required for continuing enrollment or graduation.

**Maximum time frame (quantitative)** – The number of credit hours a student can attempt to complete a degree, not to exceed 150 percent of the published time measured in credit hours.

**Pace of completion (quantitative)** – The percentage calculation of credit hours completed divided by the number of credit hours attempted past the census date (end of drop/add period).

**Financial Aid Probation** – The status of a student who is not maintaining SAP. The student has successfully appealed and is eligible to receive aid for one term.

**Academic Plan** – The status of a student who is not maintaining SAP, has successfully appealed, and will be required to meet specific criteria in an academic plan. If the Academic Plan is met at the end of the next semester, the student may continue to receive aid for the next semester.

### VI. Method of Appeal

Students who have been denied federal aid due to Unsatisfactory SAP designation have the right to appeal and may do so by submitting a completed **Unsatisfactory SAP Appeal** form to the Office of Financial Aid. All appeals must provide an explanation for why the student failed to achieve satisfactory academic progress and what has changed that will allow him or her to make satisfactory academic progress during the next evaluation period.

The appeal form is available at [cedarville.edu/finaidforms](http://cedarville.edu/finaidforms) under "Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards."

The Office of Financial Aid will review each appeal; the Assistant Director will respond by letter and/or email clearly stating whether the appeal has been approved or rejected. All appeal decisions are final.