

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

**Satisfactory Academic Standards:** Federal regulations require that all student financial aid recipients make satisfactory academic progress (SAP) toward graduation. Students must meet all three of the SAP standards outlined below in order to maintain eligibility to receive federal, state, and institutional financial aid. The standards apply to all terms of enrollment, regardless of whether or not the student received financial aid. SAP is measured by three components:

**Qualitative (Grades):** a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) must be attained at the end of each semester as specified in the following chart:

1st semester	1.50	2nd semester	1.70
3rd semester	1.85	4th semester	2.00
5th semester	2.00	6th semester	2.00
7th semester	2.00	8th semester +	2.00

Courses from which a student withdraws do not impact GPA, nor do transfer credits from other institutions. Incomplete grades do not impact GPA until a final grade is assigned. Only the most recent grade of a repeated course affects GPA; all previous attempts are negated in GPA calculations.

**Quantitative (Pace of Progression):** A student must complete a sufficient number of course credits to be on pace to graduate within 150% of the standard eight semester program completion timeframe. Therefore, cumulative completed credits, divided by cumulative attempted credits must be greater than or equal to 67%. This percentage is derived from the following: 34 credits are required to graduate;  $150\% \times 34 \text{ credits} = 51 \text{ credits}$ ;  $34 \text{ credits} / 51 \text{ credits} = 67\%$ .

*All three components (Qualitative, Quantitative, and Maximum Timeframe) are measured at the end of each semester for degree-seeking students.*

**Financial Aid Warning:** A student will be automatically placed on Financial Aid Warning for one semester if he fails to meet any of the Satisfactory Academic Standards at the time of review. Students are eligible to receive financial aid while on Financial Aid Warning.

Students on Financial Aid Warning are reviewed at the end of the warning semester. A student will be removed from Financial Aid Warning if he satisfactorily completes the semester and meets all of the Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards.

**Financial Aid Suspension:** A student who does not attain SAP at the end of his Financial Aid Warning semester will no longer be eligible to receive financial aid. He may, however, submit an appeal to be considered for Financial Aid Probation for the following semester.

Students who do not successfully complete any courses in a given semester will not receive a Financial Aid Warning semester and will immediately be placed on Financial Aid Suspension. Such students must follow the Appeals process described below or use means other than financial aid for educational expenses. Students who completely withdraw from the College during the semester are exempt from this policy. Students who are not enrolled full-time during the semester are also exempt from this policy.

Attempted course credits include completed credits, courses dropped after census, withdrawals, failed courses, repeated courses, incomplete grades (until a successful grade is assigned), and transfer work accepted for credit at Wabash. Credits from a semester wherein a student completely withdraws from the College also count towards attempted credits.

Warning, probation, and loss of eligibility letters are mailed to the student's home address via USPS. Additionally, a pdf of said letter is emailed to the student's Wabash email account

Warning, probation, and loss of eligibility letters are mailed to the student's home address via USPS. Additionally, a pdf of said letter is emailed to the student's Wabash email account.

**Maximum Timeframe:** A student becomes ineligible for financial aid at the evaluation point at which it becomes evident that he cannot graduate within the 150% maximum.

A student cannot receive aid beyond 51 attempted credits (150% of the required 34 credits to graduate). Additionally, a student who completes the academic requirements for his degree, but does not yet have the degree is not eligible for further additional financial aid.

**Appeals:** Students who fail to attain SAP after the Financial Aid Warning semester may appeal the loss of aid eligibility by submitting all of the following to the Financial Aid Office:

1. A signed, dated Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form, including
  - a. the extenuating circumstances that prevented him from meeting SAP requirements AND
  - b. what has changed or positive steps he has taken to ensure he will meet SAP in the future
2. Third-party documentation that confirms the extenuating circumstances (physician, counselor, lawyer, social worker, academic advisor, religious leader, etc.)
3. Academic Improvement Plan reviewed and signed by the student's Academic Advisor.

All three items must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office prior to the beginning of the semester for which the student is requesting placement on Financial Aid Probation. Extenuating circumstances eligible for consideration include:

- Death of an immediate family member
- Student injury or illness
- Other special circumstances

All appeals are reviewed by the SAP Appeals Committee and all decisions are final. A student is limited to two appeals during his Wabash tenure. The extenuating circumstances described in a second appeal cannot duplicate those described in the first appeal. If a student is enrolled while his appeal is pending and the appeal is ultimately denied, he will be responsible for all charges incurred during that semester without the benefit of any financial aid.

**Financial Aid Probation:** Students who successfully appeal and are placed on Financial Aid Probation may receive aid for:

- One subsequent semester, or
- Multiple semesters if he is successfully following his Academic Improvement Plan

Students on Financial Aid Probation are reviewed at the end of the probationary semester. A student will regain financial aid eligibility for subsequent periods of enrollment if he satisfactorily completes the probationary semester and meets all of the Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards.

Likewise, a student who successfully follows the requirements outlined in his Academic Improvement Plan (AIP) may continue to receive financial aid beyond his initial probationary semester, even though SAP standards have not been met. He will be monitored in accordance with his AIP at the end of each semester up to the point in time established in his AIP wherein he plans to regain SAP. After that specified point in time has passed, he will be evaluated against the standard Qualitative, Quantitative and Maximum Timeframe standards.

**Financial Aid Termination:** Upon completion of his probationary semester, a student who does not attain SAP or fails to meet the requirements outlined in his Academic Improvement Plan will no longer be eligible to receive financial aid.

**Regaining Lost Aid Eligibility:** A student who has lost financial aid eligibility may choose to enroll without the benefit of any financial aid. If SAP is regained during such a period of enrollment, he will regain eligibility for financial aid for subsequent terms of enrollment. The student is responsible for contacting the Financial Aid Office if he believes all SAP standards have been reached and wishes to have his eligibility for financial aid reinstated.

**NOTE: Wabash College will not certify private alternative student loans for students who are on Financial Aid Suspension or Financial Aid Termination.**

**Continuance in College vs. SAP:** The Dean of the College reviews each student's academic performance at the end of each semester to determine a student's academic eligibility to remain at Wabash College.

Satisfactory Academic Progress is reviewed each semester by the Financial Aid Office to determine a student's eligibility to continue to receive financial aid.

These two reviews are mutually exclusive; academic eligibility to remain at Wabash College does not necessitate that financial aid will be available. Likewise, a student may still be eligible to receive financial aid, but ultimately may be academically dismissed by the Dean of the College.