

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) POLICY

Introduction

To receive federal and state need based funds administered by the Office of Financial Aid at the University of Charleston, students must be making measurable academic progress toward completion of an eligible degree. Federal regulations require evaluation of both qualitative and quantitative academic progress as well as completion of degree objective within 150% of normal time frame.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards are the same for all categories of students, including those students registered with the University's Academic Success Center. Students registered with the Academic Success Center should take advantage of suggested accommodations to meet the SAP standards. Failure to register with Academic Success Center will not be considered an extenuating circumstance. All periods of enrollment will be included in the measurement of satisfactory academic progress. Terms in which the student enrolled but did not receive financial aid are included in the measurement.

Guidelines for Academic Progress

The academic year at the University of Charleston consists of fall, spring, and summer enrollment periods. Fall term begins the academic year and the summer term concludes it. The measurement of academic progress is made at the end of each enrollment period and the status is effective with the next enrollment period.

Students applying at the University of Charleston for the first time (including transfers) are considered initially to be meeting SAP. The measurement of academic progress will be determined when all academic transcripts are received by the Office of Financial Aid. All transcripts are to be reviewed prior to any disbursement of federal/state funds. Students who have been academically suspended from the University and who are readmitted are not eligible for financial aid unless meeting the SAP policy. Students who are readmitted may follow the appeal policy if consideration for financial aid is desired. Students who receive academic forgiveness for previous course work will continue to have all attempted credit hours and all earned grades considered as part of the evaluation of academic progress for financial aid.

GPA

Students must meet a qualitative standard of academic progress measured through cumulative grade point average. Students must have an overall 2.0 GPA to graduate from the University.

GPA Required for Undergraduate level students:

Bachelor's Degree Programs-2.00 GPA

Associate degree Programs- 2.00 GPA

GPA Required for Graduate-level students:

School of Business and Leadership- 3.00 GPA

School of Pharmacy- 2.30 GPA

Quantitative Standards

Students must meet a quantitative standard of academic progress measured by a percentage completion rate. Students must successfully complete 67% of all attempted credit hours (this allows students to graduate within 150% of the normal timeframe). The calculation is made as follows: $\text{earned credit hours}/\text{attempted credit hours} = \text{completion rate}$ (result will be rounded to the closest whole number). Courses in which a student receives a grade of "W," "I," "F," "FW," "FX," "IF," "NF," "NR", and courses taken under the University's repeat regulations are included in attempted credit hours but are not included in earned credit hours. Credit hours transferred are included in this quantitative measure.

Maximum Time Frame for Degree Completion

Students must obtain degree objective within 150% of the normal time frame for degree completion. For example, in a baccalaureate program requiring 120 credit hours, students must obtain degrees within 180 attempted credit hours ($120 \times 1.50 = 180$). For associate programs of 60 credit hours, students must complete within 90 attempted hours. Graduate students in master's degree programs requiring 68 hours must complete within 102 attempted credit hours. Doctoral students have a maximum of 219 attempted credit hours. This maximum time frame is based upon student classification in the University's academic records.



Students who are pursuing a course of study with greater credit hour requirements need to notify the Office of Financial Aid to have a review done on a case-by-case basis. This request for review will not be considered an appeal.

Students who are pursuing second degrees may be considered for financial aid (this is not the same situation as dual degrees). A second undergraduate degree must be obtained within 60 attempted credit hours. A second associate degree must be obtained within 30 attempted credit hours. A second master's degree must be obtained within 36 credit hours. The attempted hour limitations for a second degree, i.e., 60 attempted credit hours, is measured from the point at which the student earned the initial degree.

Financial aid eligibility is limited to no more than two associate degrees, two undergraduate degrees, two master's degrees, and one Doctor. Students who wish to pursue degrees beyond these may do so without federal financial assistance.

Warning Period

A student who fails to meet SAP (excluding maximum time frame) at the end of the enrollment period will automatically be placed on "warning", not to exceed one enrollment period. During the "warning" enrollment period, the student may receive federal financial aid despite the determination that the student is not meeting SAP standards. The student must meet SAP standards at the end of the warning period or will be suspended from further financial aid until such time the student meets SAP standards (student must pay for any additional course enrollment after the warning period through personal or private funds) or the student must appeal, and the appeal is granted.

Probation Period

"Probation" is the status assigned to a student who fails to meet SAP standards and who had appealed and has had eligibility for aid reinstated. A student on financial aid "probation" may receive financial aid for one enrollment period. At that point, the student must meet SAP standards or meet the requirements of the individual academic plan developed in conjunction with an academic advisor.

Appeal Process

There may be extenuating circumstances encountered by a student which impact his/her ability to be successful during an enrollment period. These circumstances include personal injury or illness which occurs during an enrollment period; death of an immediate family member or legal guardian during an enrollment period; or other documented circumstances that were unexpected in nature and beyond control of the student. In these cases, cumulative grade point average or completion rate may decline resulting in the student not meeting the minimum qualitative and quantitative standards previously described.

If this occurs and the student wishes to appeal the suspension from financial aid eligibility, a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form must be submitted to the Office of Financial Aid no later than the date listed on the student's denial letter. The Academic Progress Appeal Form will be available in the Office of Financial Aid as well as the MYUC student portal. If the appeal is granted and the student meets the SAP policy within one enrollment term, the advisor/official form needs to state the number of credit hours and semester GPA that a student must obtain to be compliant at the next assessment period. If the student will require more than one enrollment period to become compliant with SAP standards, academic plan must be developed which specifies the course work and term GPA necessary to become compliant within three enrollment periods. A review will be done at the end of each enrollment period to ensure that the student is meeting the terms of the academic plan. If the student is not meeting those terms, further eligibility for aid is suspended immediately. An academic plan should not exceed three additional terms of enrollment.

In some cases, a student may not complete the degree objective within 150% of the normal time frame, an example is a change in major. If this occurs and the student wishes to appeal the suspension from financial aid eligibility, a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form must be submitted no later than the deadline listed on the denial letter sent from the Office of Financial Aid. This appeal must include an academic plan which specifically identifies remaining required course work and the projected graduation date. Extensions of the maximum timeframe will not exceed three additional enrollment periods. Extensions of the time frame will not be granted to students who have less than an overall 2.0 grade point average or less than 67% completion rate or who received academic forgiveness under the University Academic Forgiveness Policy.



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An appeal form must contain a copy of the University academic transcript (unofficial copy is acceptable), appropriate documentation regarding the extenuating circumstance, and a signed University academic advisor/official form. Incomplete appeal forms will not be reviewed.

The appeal will be reviewed by the Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Committee.