

GOOD SAMARITAN COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCE
CINCINNATI, OHIO

POLICY TITLE: FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

General Statement/Purpose

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) provides students whom are receiving Federal Student Aid (FSA) with a framework for knowing when eligibility is in jeopardy. GSC maintains an intervention system to assist students with their academic weakness so that corrective measures can be implemented. That system, Student Success Program, is for all students enrolled in the college.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) in the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965 requires colleges and universities to establish, implement and monitor minimum standards of academic progress for students receiving FSA under Title IV programs. GSC applies these standards to all financial aid, including the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, and Federal PLUS (Parent) Loan programs, as well as the state Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) program and Institutional awards. As required by federal regulations, the GSC Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy includes a qualitative (GPA) and quantitative (maximum timeframe) standard.

Students experiencing academic difficulties are referred to the Student Success Program to determine the assistance and support that are necessary to address their individual plan of success to attain their educational goals. Students who are aware of learning disabilities should immediately contact GSC's Learning Specialist to determine appropriate accommodations. (Please refer to Students with Special Learning Needs Policy in the Student Handbook). A student with a documented disability and functional limitations is still held to the same academic expectations as other students.

The Financial Aid Office (FAO) follows tenets of the academic policy of the college, which advises students of their academic status and is maintained so that corrective measures can be implemented. The intervention mode applies to all students enrolled in the degree program. At the end of each semester, students receive email notification if they have failed to meet the academic standards, how it affects their financial aid and the steps required to meet those standards.

Minimum Standards for Academic Progress

Determination of Satisfactory Academic Progress is based on three components and the following minimum standards that will be evaluated each term:

1. **Grade Point Average:** Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 on credits attempted each semester.
2. **Maximum Timeframe:** Students must not exceed 150% of the length of the program which is equivalent of three full-time years. GSC two-year Associate Degree in Applied Science in Nursing requires 73 credits to complete. Students cannot receive FSA for more than 109 attempted credit hours (73 x 150%). All attempted hours include transfer and unearned credit hours.
3. **Progress Toward Degree:** Students must progress toward their degree at a pace that meets the 150% rule of the maximum timeframe. To meet this standard, students must earn a minimum of 12 credit hours in a full-time equivalent term. For example, for a full-time equivalent year, students must complete:
 - 24 credit hours at the end of their first year
 - 48 credit hours at the end of their second year
 - 73 credit hours at the end of their third year

If a student receives withdrawals and/or failing grades in all of their courses in one semester, the student's financial aid will be Suspended. (*Students with extenuating circumstances may submit an appeal – see Appeal procedures*).

Students are reviewed each semester to determine if they are meeting these SAP standards. Failure to meet ANY of the above standards will result in the student receiving an email notification.

WARNING – *First time not meeting standards of academic progress.* Student will be referred to The Dean of Academic Affairs who will initiate student intervention with GSC Students Success Program (*unless students fails all courses in a semester – in which case they will be suspended.*)

PROBATION – The second time a student is found to be deficient in one or more components of the policy will receive a failure notification. Upon approval of a written appeal to the Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, the student will be placed on financial aid probation status for the next semester the student is enrolled and may be required to set up an academic plan for success to receive this status. Students are still eligible to receive financial aid during the probation semester. Students who meet all SAP standards at the end of the probation semester are taken off probation.

SUSPENSION – If at the end of a probation semester, the student is still not meeting one or more of the SAP standards, the student will receive a

Suspension notification and will be ineligible to receive FSA until minimum standards have been achieved.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Procedures

Each semester, the academic records of all students who are receiving or applying for FSA will be reviewed. Students who are not meeting SAP standards will receive an email notification through their GSC email account that will outline the steps a student can take to restore their eligibility.

If the failure to maintain SAP was due to extenuating circumstances, a student may appeal. This appeal must be submitted in writing to the Admissions and Financial Aid Director. The appeal must include information regarding why there was a failure to make SAP and what has changed in the situation that would allow the student to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress at the next evaluation. The student has the right to appeal any stage of the process.

The student will receive an email notification once the decision of the appeal has been made. If the appeal is approved, the student's FSA eligibility will be restored and the student will continue to receive FSA as long as the minimum standards are met each semester.

To re-establish their academic progress standing, a student may also elect to pay for courses without the assistance of FSA until they have met SAP standards. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the FAO when they are once again, meeting these standards.

Questions regarding SAP may be directed to the Admissions and Financial Aid Director.

Definitions

Credits Attempted: The number of credits in which you are enrolled on or after the first day of class(es). Transfer hours applied toward the student's program are counted toward the Credits Attempted.

Credits Accumulated: The credits for all courses in which you receive a final grade of C or above.

Grade Point Average (GPA): Computed by dividing the cumulative grade points by the cumulative credits attempted. Overall success is affected by the grades received in coursework. Successful completion of a course is defined as receiving one of the following grades: A, B, C and P. The following grades are not considered as successful completion of a course and will have an adverse effect on your academic progress: D, F, I, W, WP and WF.

Grade/Grade Point	Status Symbol
A 4.00	I = Incomplete
B 3.00	W = Withdrawn

C 2.00
D 1.00
F 0.00

P = Pass
WP = Withdrawal Pass
WF = Withdrawal Fail

Program Credits: All credits that are a part of the degree program.

Incomplete: Courses that a student receives an Incomplete grade are considered as not meeting SAP standards and may jeopardize ability to receive FSA. Students must complete the course within 10 school days to avoid receiving an F grade. A student who completes the course and the Incomplete is changed to a grade should contact the FAO.

Repeated Courses: Repeat courses previously completed and for which a student received a grade of D or below, WP, WF, F and all subsequent grades will remain part of the student's permanent record. The last grade earned shall replace the first in computing the student's GPA. All courses, including repeated courses, are calculated into the total attempted credit hours and the maximum timeframe requirement in meeting SAP standards.

Transfer Credits: Transfer credit accepted toward a student's educational program is required to be counted into the attempted and completed hours and is also counted into the maximum timeframe requirement.

Withdrawal: Withdraw status of W, WP, and WF are designated to reflect a student has withdrawn from a course after the first day of class. Students receiving a withdraw status are not considered to be meeting SAP standards. The number of credit hours for each course that a student withdraws from is included in the total attempted hours that are calculated into the maximum timeframe requirement in meeting SAP standards.

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
President

Effective Date: 07/1/2011

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