

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students are expected to maintain certain academic standards and make satisfactory progress towards a completion of their declared program of study. The Financial Aid Office will review the requirements listed below for satisfactory academic progress of students receiving financial aid at the end of each academic term. If any of the three requirements are not met, the Financial Aid Office will notify the student in writing of their financial aid warning. The Financial Aid Office will mail a letter to the students address they provide that notifies them of their financial aid warning. It is the student's responsibility to know their SAP status for financial aid. A student not in attendance is subject to adjustments of his or her financial aid. A student who never attended class(es) is ineligible to receive aid for the class(es) in question. This includes an online class(es) where the student failed to submit assignments and/or tests to the instructor. Nonattendance could result in the student being required to repay all or part of the financial aid received.

Satisfactory academic progress (SAP) is defined by the following three criteria:

- Meeting a minimum cumulative grade point average requirement (GPA).
- Earning a minimum number of units for credit per semester (Pace of Progression).
- Completing the degree objective within a maximum number of semesters enrolled and a maximum number of credits attempted (Maximum Time-Frame Allowance).

Federal law and regulations state that college policies measuring SAP must consider the grades earned by the student. A student is considered to be maintaining SAP if they meet all of the following requirements:

- Qualitative Requirement – Maintain the required cumulative grade point average (GPA), AND
- Quantitative Requirement – Satisfactorily complete the necessary number of credit hours (67%) AND
- Maximum Time Frame – Will graduate within 150% of the credit hours required to complete his or her program of study.

If a student fails to meet SAP requirements they are placed on financial aid warning. If they fail to improve their cumulative completion rate and/or GPA while on warning they become financial aid ineligible. They remain financial aid ineligible until their completion rate and/or GPA are the minimum SAP standards. A student may receive financial aid for repeating courses. However, if retaking a previously passed course, financial aid can only be used for one repeat of the course even if the second attempt results in a lower grade. Any courses that are repeated will be used in the student's Satisfactory Academic Progress calculation. Each repetition will count toward the attempted hours; however, only the courses being counted in the GPA calculation will be counted in completed hours for SAP. The most recent grade earned will count toward GPA. Repeated hours may be subtracted from the completed hours but remain in the attempted hours for the SAP calculation. In both situations, the student's GPA could improve however, the credit hour completion ratio may stay the same or decrease. A student not enrolled in an eligible program of study may not receive aid if taking solely remedial courses. A student may receive aid for up to 30 semester hours of remedial coursework if enrolled in an eligible program as a regular student. The remedial courses will be included in all SAP measurements.

Qualitative Minimum Requirements

All students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA to be eligible for federal aid. GPA will include all courses taken at Aaniiih Nakoda College. Hours transferred in from another college, incompletes (I) and withdrawn courses (W) do not affect the student's GPA. If a student fails to meet the qualitative minimum requirement the financial aid office will recalculate the amount of Title IV funding a student can receive to account for subsequent grade change. A disbursement is made based on the grade change during the payment period.

Quantitative Minimum Requirements

Students must maintain a 67% credit hour completion ratio for hours attempted. The credit hour completion ratio will be monitored at the end of each semester and cumulatively. Hours that are transferred from another college will be included in the hours attempted and successfully completed. The completion ratio is measured by dividing the total number of hours the student has successfully completed by the total number they have attempted. Successful completion is defined as receiving any of the following grades: A, B, or C. The following grades are NOT considered successful completion of a course: D, F, W (Withdraw), U (Unsatisfactory) or I (Incomplete). For example, a student who is attempting 12 credit hours must successfully complete 9 credit hours. The attempted credit hours include remedial coursework and hours the student may have attempted even if federal aid was not received. Courses that a student remains in past the add/drop date and earns a grade of "W" (or equivalent) are included in SAP calculations. All current financial aid recipients will have their completed credit hours and grades monitored at the end of each term to see if they have met the requirements stated above.

Maximum Timeframe

A student becomes ineligible at the point at which it becomes mathematically impossible for them to complete the program within 150% of its length if it is an undergraduate program. All students must have a cumulative completion rate of 67% for all attempted credits. This means that 67% is the minimum percentage of credit hours to be earned or completed each semester for the student to graduate within the maximum time frame.

Enrollment Status Credit Load

Full-time 12 or more credits

3/4 time 9-11 credits

½ time 6-8 credits

Less than ½ time 1-5 credits

See the financial aid office/and or the student handbook for further information regarding:

- Quantitative and Qualitative Minimum Requirements
- Credit Load
- Maximum Eligibility for Federal Pell Grant
- Consequences of Not Attending Classes or Withdrawing from Classes

Financial Aid Warning

Financial aid warning is a status assigned to a student who is failing to make satisfactory academic progress (SAP). The financial aid office checks students SAP at the end of each payment period both the quantitative (pace) and qualitative (grade-based) standards are reviewed at each evaluation point. Students who fail to make satisfactory progress are placed on financial aid warning. Warning status lasts for one payment period only, during which the student may continue to receive Title IV funds. If they fail to improve their completion rate and/or GPA while on warning they become financial aid ineligible. They remain on financial aid ineligible until their completion rate and GPA are the minimum SAP standards.

Financial Aid Probation

Probation is a status assigned to a student who is failing to make satisfactory academic progress and who successfully appeals. Eligibility for aid may be reinstated for one payment period. If it is determined that a student will require more than one payment period to meet progress standards, they will be placed on probation with an academic plan. A student's progress will be reviewed at the end of one payment period to determine if the student is meeting the requirements of the academic plan. If the student is meeting the requirements of the academic plan or the generally applicable SAP requirements which apply to all students, the student is eligible to receive Title IV aid as long as they continue to meet those requirements and are reviewed according to the requirements specified in the plan.

Financial Aid Appeals

A student who loses Title IV eligibility because they failed to make satisfactory progress may appeal that result on the basis of: the student's injury or illness; the death of a relative; or other special circumstances. The appeal is a process by which a student who is not meeting SAP standards petitions the school for reconsideration of their eligibility for Title IV funds. The appeal must explain why the student failed to make satisfactory progress and what has changed in their situation that will allow them to make satisfactory progress at the next evaluation.

To appeal for reinstatement a student must write a letter to the Financial Aid Officer and appeals committee before the beginning of the next academic semester. Please note that if a student appeals late and does not submit the letter until after the semester begins; his/her appeals may be denied pending all related circumstances involved. Appeals will be reviewed by the Financial Aid Officer and Dean of Student Affairs. All appeals will be resolved by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. The committee's decision is final. The student will be notified by mail or in person of the decision made by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee.

A student on financial aid probation may appeal for reinstatement of aid after successfully meeting at least one of the following conditions:

- Meets both the cumulative grade point average and pace requirements stated in the SAP policy
OR
- Appeals due to unusual circumstances which were beyond the student's control. Such situations may be:
 - Serious medical and/or financial problems affecting the student or the student's immediate family.
 - Death in the family or other close relationships will be considered with documentation.
 - A major traumatic situation.
 - Such an appeal must have evidence that the situation is rectified and will not interfere with the student's progress for the new enrollment period. Please note the above circumstances are but a few examples but are not limited to these specific areas.