

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

Federal regulations require that all students receiving any form of financial assistance make and maintain satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of their degrees in order to remain eligible to receive assistance. Students are evaluated on the basis of GPA (Grade Point Average), credit hour completion, and maximum time frame limitation. Students are considered to be making satisfactory academic progress if they meet the two standards of measurement (Qualitative and Quantitative). Failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress will result in the loss of all federal and state aid, including:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Federal Work Study
- Federal Stafford Loans (Subsidized and Unsubsidized)
- Federal Plus Loans
- Federal Perkins Loans
- Federal Teach Grant
- Georgia HOPE Scholarship Programs
- Other Grant and/or Scholarship programs which require Satisfactory Academic Progress verification.

Satisfactory Academic Progress will be reviewed based on cumulative academic history. Qualitative and Quantitative measurement will be evaluated at the end of Spring Semester to determine eligibility for the next semester of enrollment (including the immediate summer semester).

In order to be eligible for federal financial aid funding or the Georgia HOPE Scholarship, a student must be making "Good" Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Four (4) standards are used to measure Satisfactory Academic Progress:

- 1. Undergraduate students must maintain a 2.0 or above cumulative grade point average. Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 or above cumulative grade point average. Renewal and Repeat classes are included in the GPA calculation for financial aid purposes.
- 2. Students must, as a minimum, complete at least 67% (or 2/3) of the courses they attempt toward a program of study. Please NOTE: Satisfactory grades are A, B, C, D, or S. All remedial courses (Learning Support and Regents) past the first 30 hours and Academic Renewal classes are included in this calculation.
- 3. Students must complete their program of study within the allowable timeframe. The maximum number of hours allowed is 150% of the number of semester hours required to earn a degree. For example at Albany State University, the average degree requires 127 hours for completion and the average graduate degree requires 60 hours for completion; therefore students may not receive financial aid after they have attempted 190 semester hours (undergraduate), 90 hours for Second Undergraduate, and 90 semester hours

(graduate). The first 30 semester hours of Learning Support and Regents courses combined are not counted in the maximum number of hours. Academic Renewal and Transfer credits are counted in the maximum number of hours.

Students who change majors or degree programs may reach their eligibility limits for receiving financial aid before obtaining a degree. Students who elect to change majors or degree programs should do so early to avoid jeopardizing eligibility for financial aid.

4. Students cannot receive financial aid for more than 30 semester hours of remedial coursework (Learning Support and Regents courses). If these courses must be taken beyond 30 semester hours, students must enroll at their own expense. If an appeal is granted through the appeal process, then the student may receive financial aid to cover the cost of the remedial classes

Reinstatement of Financial Aid

Students may apply for reinstatement of financial aid by achieving one of the following:

- Accomplishing a successful appeal through the process described below
- Enrolling at your own expense until you are making "Good" Satisfactory Academic Progress towards a degree.

Appeals Process

An appeals process is available for students who have extenuating circumstances that account for their lack of academic progress. Appeals must be made in writing to the Financial Aid Committee. Students must submit the Financial Aid Appeals petition along with supporting documents to indicate the specific reason(s) for failure to make satisfactory progress. The committee will review the statement and supporting documents, as well as past performance and past academic record. Students will be notified in writing of the committee's decision. Students that are academically eligible for enrollment and are approved for financial aid through an appeal remain eligible until the next evaluation period. Please make sure that you include all documentation you think will be necessary with your appeal petition as both approvals and denials are final.

Students that have been approved for one (1) term and thus not for the academic year will be evaluated for Satisfactory Academic Progress at the end of the approved term. The Financial Aid Appeals Committee will review all students whose Satisfactory Academic Progress did not improve after the 1 term of enrollment and determine if the student will be approved for financial aid eligibility for the subsequent term, or have to provide additional documentation by appealing for the subsequent term.