

Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for Graduate and Post-Graduate Degree Seeking Students

The Education Amendments of 1976 require that institutions limit federal financial assistance to those students who, according to institutional standards, are in good academic standing (qualitative) and making satisfactory degree progress (quantitative). At PSU, students must be in good academic standing and be making satisfactory degree progress in order to be eligible for financial assistance.

All graduate degree candidates must maintain academic standing consistent with the College of Graduate Studies program requirements of a 3.0 cumulative grade point average required for graduation. Continuing students' quantitative progress (earned credits) will be reviewed once per year prior to the award or disbursement of financial aid for the next academic year. Readmitted students' quantitative progress will be reviewed at the point of re-entry.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for graduate students requires that graduate students progress by earning at least 75 percent of the credits for which they enroll each year (between July 1 and June 30), and that they earn these credits toward their degree or certification program. The number of enrolled credits also includes dropped courses.

Students who are not successfully completing courses at the minimum levels are not considered to be making satisfactory academic progress, and will not receive further financial aid until satisfactory progress status is achieved. Students will be informed by a letter from the Financial Aid Office regarding non-eligibility status for financial aid. If the ineligible student does not appeal, reinstatement for financial aid consideration will occur when the student meets the necessary credits (based on 75% completion).

Special Note: Due to timing, some students may be identified as NOT making satisfactory academic progress as a result of grades being unavailable by the start of a new term. Students may submit their grades directly to the Financial Aid Team; however, until these grades are received and SAP is reviewed, federal aid cannot be processed.

If a student feels there have been mitigating circumstances that have prevented satisfactory progress, a letter of appeal can be presented to the financial aid committee for review. At the time of review, the student will either be allowed to continue federal financial aid eligibility (normally based on mitigating circumstances) or not be allowed to continue based on weak academic performance. If the student's appeal is denied, the Associate Director of Financial Aid will notify the student as to how eligibility may be restored.

Failure to regain satisfactory progress status will result in the loss of all federal loans.