

SAP

**SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS:**

**Here Today, Changed Tomorrow!**

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**CURRENT REGULATIONS**




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**SAP Standards**

Must be same as or stricter than standards for non-Title IV students in same educational program

- > Are you using your school's academic standards or standards specifically for Title IV?




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**SAP Standards Must Include**

Two Components

- Qualitative
- Quantitative
- ❖ Both must be cumulative

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**Qualitative Standard**

To assess quality of academic work

- Use standards measurable against a norm
  - > grades
  - > work projects
- May use fixed or graduated standard

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**Fixed Standard Example**

A student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 after two terms of enrollment, and subsequently, each year.

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**Graduated Standard Example**

Grade Point Average Requirements

- >1 to 30 credits = 1.6
- >31 to 60 credits = 1.8
- >61 to graduation = 2.0

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**Academic Programs Longer Than Two Years**

- By the end of the second academic year, student must have:
  - > a "C" average or its equivalent
  - OR
  - > *academic standing consistent with graduation requirements*
- Years measured in time, not grade level

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**Quantitative Standard**

To measure progress toward course completion.

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**Maximum Time Frame**

- Undergraduates may receive aid for a maximum of 150% of the published length of the educational program
  - *cumulative, including periods without Title IV assistance*
- School must develop a written policy establishing a maximum time frame in which a graduate student must complete the program.

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**Evaluating Student Progress**

- How often should students' progress be evaluated?
  - Each payment period
  - Every other payment period
  - Each academic year
    - After which payment period

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**Programs One Year Or Less**

School must evaluate progress at least once, at the half-way point.

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**Programs Longer Than One Year**

School must evaluate progress at least once per year.

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**Course Repeats**

Effect on progress

- Qualitative - average grades, count both grades, or count the higher grade
- Quantitative – *must* include in max time frame
- ❖ May only count toward enrollment status if receiving credit
  - ❖ As of July 1, 2011 may count regardless of credit but can only repeat each course once for TIV credit

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**What About?**

- Incompletes
- Withdrawals
- Non-credit remedial courses

Policy cannot exclude from the SAP review courses in which a student remained past the drop/add period and earned a grade of “W” (or its equivalent), nor can it routinely exclude certain hours attempted, such as those taken during a summer session.

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**Transfer Students**

- May make initial disbursement
- If no credits transferred in, then SAP evaluated solely on work at current school
- If received transfer credits, must at least count those hours when determining progress toward maximum time frame

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**Probation/Warning –  
CURRENT**

- Optional
- Length of probation
- Stipulations a student must meet
- Notification process

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**Major/Degree Changes**

Effect of/on maximum timeframe

- > Take credits earned and apply toward max time
- > Student eligible for aid for 150% of remaining required credits
- > School limits on program major changes?

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**Appeal Policy**

- Specific procedures for student to appeal if not making satisfactory progress

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**How To Re-establish Eligibility**

If an appeal is unsuccessful or the institution does not have an appeal process.

Neither paying for one's classes nor sitting out a semester affects a student's SAP standing, so neither is sufficient to re-establish FSA eligibility.

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**Disbursement of Funds**

Make certain that student meets satisfactory academic progress standards as of last time your policy required evaluation.

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**“New” Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Final Regulations - **668.16, 668.34**  
Effective July 1, 2011

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**Satisfactory Academic Progress**

- Consolidates SAP regulations
- Describes all of the required elements of a satisfactory academic progress policy
- Retains institutional flexibility to set policy
  - Such as evaluating categories of students differently
- Additional flexibility allowed for institutions that monitor SAP more frequently than annual requirement

23 

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**SAP Policy**

- Policy must include the following:
  - Pace of progression required to insure student completes within maximum time frame
  - Measurement of student’s progress at each evaluation
  - Calculate the pace at which the student is progressing by –
    - Dividing the cumulative number of hours the student has successfully completed by
    - The cumulative number of hours the student has attempted
    - Not required to include remedial courses

24 

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**SAP Policy**

- Policy must include the following:
  - Describe how student’s GPA and pace of completion affected by incompletes, withdrawals, repetitions, or transfers of credits
    - Transfer credits accepted toward completion of student’s program must count as both hours attempted and hours completed
  - Student’s SAP evaluations, whether each payment period, annually or less often than each payment period, must occur at the end of a payment period

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**Monitoring SAP Each Payment Period**

- In general, a student who is not making SAP is no longer eligible for Title IV aid
- For an institution that chooses to evaluate SAP at the end of each payment period, a “financial aid warning” status *may* be used
  - Student may continue to receive Title IV aid for one payment period
  - No appeal necessary

26 

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**Monitoring SAP**

- If measure each payment period –
  - The payment period following a payment period in which the student did not make SAP, the school *may*:
    - Place the student on Financial Aid Warning; or
    - Place the student on Financial Aid Probation
- If evaluate SAP annually or less often than each payment period
  - When student loses eligibility for Title IV aid
    - May be placed on Financial Aid Probation

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### SAP

**Monitoring SAP**

- If on Financial Aid Warning -
  - After 1 payment period, student must make SAP; or
  - *May* be placed on Probation after successful appeal
- To be placed on Probation
  - Student expected to be making SAP in next payment period; or
  - Be successfully following an academic plan designed to ensure student will be able to meet SAP by a specific point in time
    - Not required to develop academic plans
    - Can set conditions on developing plans

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**Monitoring SAP**

- A student on Probation may only receive Title IV funds for ONE payment period
- A student on Probation may not receive Title IV funds for the subsequent payment period unless:
  - Student is now making SAP; or
  - Institution determines student met requirements specified by the school in the academic plan
    - *A student reinstated to eligibility under an academic plan and making progress under the plan is considered to be eligible*
      - May be evaluated at the same time as other TIV recipients or at more frequent periods based on plan

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**SAP Policy - Appeal**

- Appeals
  - Process by which student who is not meeting school's SAP policy petitions for reconsideration of eligibility for Title IV
  - Policy must specify the conditions under which a student may appeal
    - Appeal must include:
      - Why the student failed to make SAP; and
      - What has changed that will allow the student to make SAP at the next evaluation
  - Federal Register reminds schools that 150% maximum timeframe can be appealed

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**SAP – Appeal Notification**

- Notification to students
  - Must notify student of results of SAP review that impacts student’s eligibility for Title IV aid
  - If institution has an appeal process, must describe the specific elements required to appeal SAP
    - May specify how often and how many appeals are allowed
  - *If institution does not have an appeal process*, must describe how a student who has failed SAP can reestablish eligibility for Title IV aid

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**SAP Implementation**

- 2011 Summer crossover payment period
  - School may choose to use current SAP policy or any new SAP policy based on new regulations
- Must publicize any changes to students and state when any new SAP policy is effective

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**Feedback on Training**  
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