Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Federal and state regulations (34 CFR 668.34) require that students receiving financial aid be making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward completion of their certificate program or associate degree regardless of whether the student received financial aid in the past. The SAP policy applies to all students who receive assistance from all federal and most state financial aid programs including but not limited to Pell Grant, student loans, work study, TIP, Futures for Frontliners (F4F), Reconnect, Veterans Education Benefits, Promise Zones, and some scholarships.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

1. Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 that is calculated from all attempted classes that earn GPA points. Incompletes, withdrawals, forgiven repeats, transfer credits, pass/fail courses, and developmental classes are excluded from the GPA calculation.

2. Each semester students must complete all attempted credits at a pace of at least 67% including courses below the 100 level. Incompletes, withdrawals, repeated classes, transfer credits, pass/fail courses, developmental classes are used to calculate the completion rate.

3. Students must complete their degree program within 90 attempted credit hours or the 150% limit of their program of study. Attempted credit hours include transfer credits; credit hours for courses passed or failed, repeated courses, withdrawals, and incompletes. A student may earn no more than three degrees or certificates regardless of total accumulated credit hours.

4. Students that attend WSCC and already possess a bachelor's degree will need to complete the 150% appeal process and provide official transcript(s) from their former school(s).

Procedures

1. Satisfactory Academic Progress is reviewed at the end of each semester.

2. Students will be placed on Financial Aid Warning for the semester if they fail to meet the minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA requirement and/or fail to complete 67% of credit hours attempted overall. Students are eligible to receive financial aid for the Warning semester. Students who fail to achieve Satisfactory Academic Progress at the end of the Warning semester will go on Financial Aid Suspension and will be canceled from financial aid.

3. Students will be canceled from financial aid after the semester the student reaches 90 credits or reaches 150% of the credits needed to complete their program of study.

4. Any student canceled from financial aid, after two semesters of failing to meet the SAP policy, has the right to appeal the suspension to the Financial Aid (FA) Director if there were circumstances that prevented the student from meeting the requirements of the SAP policy. Special circumstances can include but are not limited to medical, employment, transportation, or any other mitigating circumstances deemed extenuating by the Financial Aid Director.

5. All financial aid appeals must be made by completing the appropriate WSCC Appeal form and the student must meet with the Financial Aid Director. Supporting documentation may be required. After reviewing the appeal, the Financial Aid Director will inform the student of the decision in writing.

6. If a Financial Aid appeal is approved for failure to meet the pace and/or GPA requirement the student will be placed on Probation and eligible to receive financial aid. To continue on Probation, an SAP plan must be created with an Academic Advisor and followed that requires a minimum 2.0 GPA for the semester and 67% of the credits attempted to be completed each semester. The SAP plan may require additional conditions, established by the Financial Aid Director or Academic Advisor, which the student must follow.

7. Students will typically be allowed one Financial Aid SAP appeal, but an additional appeal may be considered if circumstance are warranted. A student wishing to appeal the decision of the Financial Aid Director may do so in writing to the Dean of Student Services.

8. Students that are approved for an appeal to exceed their 150% credit limit will be able to receive financial aid for the specified classes needed to complete their degree program. Failing to meet the pace or GPA requirements for the classes approved with their 150% appeal will result in financial aid cancellation.

9. Students' financial aid eligibility will be reinstated after cancellation if they use non-financial aid resources to enroll in classes and earns enough credits to meet the minimum 67% completion rate and attains the required 2.0 cumulative grade point and has not exceeded their 150% program limit. Students should notify the financial aid office once they are again meeting all SAP requirements.

10. Students that fail to meet the terms of their appeal will be canceled from financial aid. They have the option to appeal again or use non-financial aid resources to enroll in classes until they are meeting all SAP requirements.