

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

2016 Undergraduate

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy

Federal regulations require that schools monitor the academic progress of each applicant for financial assistance and that the school certify that the applicant is making satisfactory academic progress towards earning his/her degree or certificate. Financial aid recipients must maintain satisfactory progress in the three areas listed below:

1. Cumulative Grade Point Average
2. Hours Earned
3. Maximum Time Limit

It is the student's responsibility to stay informed of the university's SAP standards and to monitor their progress. For SAP purposes, student's academic records are reviewed by the Scholarships and Student Aid Office each academic year at the end of the Spring Semester. Students who are not meeting one or more of the Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards are not eligible for financial aid for the next academic year. Eligibility may be regained by resolving all deficiencies (except the Maximum Length of Study).

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE STUDENTS

Federal regulations require the university to establish Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress, involving both qualitative (cumulative grade point average) and quantitative (hours earned compared to hours attempted), and a maximum length of study. This requirement applies to all applicants for any federal assistance, including Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Federal Work-Study, Federal Perkins Loan, the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program, which includes the Federal Stafford and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans for students, and Federal PLUS Loans for parents of undergraduate students. The same standards may apply to all assistance from the State of North Carolina and all other aid that is determined by the Scholarships and Student Aid Office. To be eligible for financial aid at NCCU, whether or not aid was received in the past, students must be in compliance with all three of the following areas: cumulative GPA, hours earned, and maximum length of study.

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)

Students must maintain the minimum cumulative grade point average indicated for satisfactory progress toward graduation requirements. These standards are consistent with academic standards required for graduation.

Total Hours Earned at NCCU Plus accepted Hours Transferred from Other Institutions

Undergraduate students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 or greater.

Hours Earned (Compared to Hours Attempted)

We recommend that undergraduate students attempt to earn at least 32 hours per academic year in order to graduate in four years for programs that require 124 credit hours.

Percentage of Total Hours Attempted
67%

Note: To remain eligible for financial aid, undergraduate students must earn 67% of total attempted hours for all previous periods of enrollment.

Full-time enrollment: 12 or more course credit hours

Half-time enrollment: 6 course credit hours

For financial aid purposes, the following definitions and conditions apply:

- To earn hours at NCCU, one must receive a grade of A, B, C, or D (including "+" or "-"). All other grades, including F, I, W, WC, WE, WF, AU, NU or NP, do not earn hours.
- Classes from which a student withdraws after the drop/add period count as attempted but not earned hours. Therefore, withdrawing from classes after the drop/add period will negatively affect students' ability to satisfy the hours earned standard.
- Audited courses count as attempted but not earned hours. Therefore, auditing classes will negatively affect students' ability to satisfy the hours earned standard.
- When a student repeats a course, the total attempted hours will increase with each repeat, but the student may only earn hours for a successfully completed course once. Therefore, repeating courses may negatively affect students' ability to satisfy the hours earned standard.
- Accepted transfer credit will count as both attempted and earned hours.

Maximum Length of Study

To remain eligible for financial aid, undergraduate students must complete their degree requirements within 150 percent of the published length of their academic program. At NCCU, this means that students in programs requiring 124 hours for graduation will be eligible for financial aid during the first 180 attempted hours as an undergraduate. All attempted hours are counted, including accepted transfer hours, whether or not financial aid was received, or the course work was successfully completed. No financial aid will be disbursed for the student during subsequent semesters unless the student has an approved Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) appeal and Financial Aid Progression Plan on file. Students pursuing a double major or a second degree are eligible to receive financial aid until their cumulative registered credits equal 150% of the required number of credits for their dual or second program.

Annual Satisfactory Academic Progress Review

At the end of the Spring Semester, a year-end review is completed, and students who are out of compliance with one or more of the satisfactory academic progress standards become ineligible for further financial aid until all deficiencies are remedied. The Scholarships and Student Aid Office sends written notification of ineligibility to students at their permanent addresses as listed in official university records in the Registrar's Office. Satisfactory Academic Progress and

eligibility for financial aid are determined each academic year after the Spring Semester grades are available.

Satisfactory Academic Appeal (SAP) Process

After the annual review a student will be assigned a SAP status. Please see definition of statuses below.

Satisfactory Status – Code 1

Satisfactory status is achieved when the student has met:

- Completed 67% of attempted hours
- Met cumulative GPA as established by the Registrar's Office and/or
- Did not exceed the 150% of the required hours to earn a undergraduate degree

INELIGIBLE - Code 4

Students who are not meeting the standards are ineligible for financial assistance for the next enrollment period. To regain eligibility for financial aid, a student may file a SAP appeal form.

PROBATION – Code 2

Students who receive this status have filed an appeal for financial aid to the Scholarships and Student Aid Office. Students in this category must have an approved SAP appeal rendered by the committee and a Financial Aid Progression Plan. In addition to the approved SAP appeal; students must also meet the following conditions of the Financial Aid Progression Plan:

- Complete 67% of their attempted hours
- Students must earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0

Approvals are granted for one semester at a time. All Financial Aid Progression Plans will be reviewed at the end of each semester. To remain eligible for financial aid, students must successfully complete their Financial Aid Progression Plan.

SECOND REVIEW – 2D

Students who have filed an appeal and progression plan, the appeal been was reviewed and denied. The student then requested a second review. Upon second review, the appeal is now approved.

NON-COMPLIANT – Code 4P

Students who fail to successfully complete their Financial Aid Progression Plan become ineligible to receive financial for the next semester. In order to possibly receive financial aid for the next semester, ineligible students may file a new SAP appeal form with the Scholarships and Student Aid Office.

Students must have an approved SAP appeal rendered by the committee and a Financial Aid Progression Plan. In addition to the approved SAP appeal; students must also meet the following conditions of the Financial Aid Progression Plan:

- Complete 67% of their attempted hours
- Students must earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0

Approvals are granted for one semester at a time. All Financial Aid Progression Plans will be reviewed at the end of each semester. To remain eligible for financial aid, students must successfully complete their Financial Aid Progression Plan.

ACADEMIC DISMISSAL – 4A

Students who are not meeting the academic standards as well as the financial aid standards are ineligible for financial assistance for the next enrollment period.

DENIAL – 4D

Students who submitted a SAP appeal and progression plan and after review by the committee, the appeal is denied. In order to regain possible financial aid eligibility, the student must demonstrate successful academic progression.

Summer School

Satisfactory Academic Progress for Summer School will be based on the student's eligibility as after Spring grades are reviewed. If you are deemed ineligible after the Spring semester, you will not qualify for financial aid for the upcoming Summer or any future terms until you are meeting the satisfactory academic progress policy.

Appeals

Federal regulations allow for certain cases in which the school may waive the standards. Specifically, if a student's failure to be in compliance with one or more areas of satisfactory academic progress is due to events beyond the student's control, such as a student's extended illness, serious illness or death in the immediate family, or other significant trauma, and if such mitigating circumstances can be appropriately documented for the specific term(s) in which the deficiency occurred, the student may appeal to the Scholarships and Student Aid Office. Eligibility may be regained by appeal. *Contact the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid Office to obtain a Satisfactory Academic Appeal form or visit our website at www.nccu.edu/SSA*

This SAP policy was approved April 2016 and SAP will be measured by this policy at the end of Spring 2016 and replaces all previous SAP policies.

For further information regarding Satisfactory Academic Progress, the student should contact:
*Scholarships and Student Aid Office at North Carolina Central University, P. O. Box 19496,
Durham, NC 27707 (919) 530-6180 - (919) 530-7959 (FAX)*