

## SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY FOR GRADUATE AND LAW STUDENTS

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Federal regulations require that students receiving financial aid maintain satisfactory academic progress from both qualitative and quantitative measures: cumulative GPA and hours earned compared to hours attempted

### **Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)**

Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Law students must have a cumulative grade point average of 1.8 at the end of the first year of enrollment and a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 for remaining years.

**Students pursuing a graduate degree must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0.**

**Note: To remain eligible for financial aid, graduate students must earn 75% of total attempted hours for all previous graduate level periods of enrollment.**

**Full-time enrollment: 9 or more course credit hours**

**Half-time enrollment: 4.5 course credit hours**

### **Hours Earned (Compared to Hours Attempted)**

To remain eligible for financial aid, graduate and law students must earn at least 75% of total cumulative hours attempted. For financial aid purposes, the following definitions and conditions apply:

- To earn hours at NCCU, one must receive a grade of A, B, C (including "+" or "-"). All other grades, including F, I, W, WF, WC, NP, NU, or AU, 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.

## **Annual Satisfactory Academic Progress Reviews**

At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of Summer School, 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 summer grades are available.

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## **Appeals**

Federal regulations allow for certain special cases in which the university may waive the standards. Appeals for the waiver may be considered if a student's failure to comply 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 life experience *and* if such mitigating circumstances can be appropriately documented for the specific term(s) in which the deficiency occurred. Eligibility may be regained by appeal for a fall or spring semester. Contact the Scholarships and Student Aid Office to obtain an *Appeal for Reinstatement of Eligibility form* or visit our website at [www.nccu.edu/SSA](http://www.nccu.edu/SSA).

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**This SAP policy was approved April, 2009 and SAP will be measured by this policy at the end of Summer 2009 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)