

Federal regulations require all schools participating in Title IV federal financial aid programs to have a Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy. Title IV financial aid programs include: Pell Grant, Subsidized Stafford Loan, Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, PLUS Loan, and Work-Study. The requirements of this policy apply to all students as one determinant of eligibility for financial aid. This policy does not determine academic standing.

Minimum Standards

To remain eligible for federal grants, loans and work-study, you must meet the standards indicated below at the end of each semester. At the end of each semester (Summer, Fall, and Spring), you must earn the minimum number of credits and the minimum cumulative Grade Point Average. If you do not meet the minimum standards, your eligibility may be in jeopardy.

Grade Point Average – This is the GPA used to determine your status and include grades from courses taken at all other schools which count toward your degree at SLC.

- **Undergraduates** - Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.
- **Certificate and Teaching Certificate** - Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.
- **Graduate Programs** - Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

Pace – The quantitative requirement has two parts, (a) Required Completion Rate and (b) Maximum Timeframe.

- (a) Required Completion Rate** – All students, regardless of degree, must earn 67% of all credits attempted. This is a cumulative calculation and includes credits attempted at all schools and programs before and while attending SLC. Students who do not earn 67% of all credit hours attempted will be placed on financial aid warning, probation, or suspension depending on your history.
- (b) Maximum Timeframe** – Federal regulations stipulate that the maximum time frame for an undergraduate student cannot exceed 150% of the published length of the academic program. In order to maintain satisfactory academic progress, you must complete your degree program within a certain time period. The maximum lengths of study depend on the degree you are currently pursuing. Once you reach the maximum time frame, you are no longer eligible for financial aid. Credits are counted starting with the semester you entered school, including transfer credits, even those semesters in which you did not receive financial aid. Students who have reached their maximum time-frame and have mitigating circumstances may appeal to the Financial Aid Office for a brief extension of their aid.

Failure to Meet Requirements

Failure to meet satisfactory academic progress standards may result in a student being placed in one of the following SAP Statuses:

- **Financial Aid Warning (Academic Plan)** – You will be placed on Financial Aid ‘Warning Academic Plan’ status for one term if you fail to meet the required GPA and/or overall credit completion standards. You will be required to complete an academic plan with your advisor. *Note: Students on ‘Warning Academic Plan’ are eligible for financial aid.*
 - To be removed from ‘Warning Academic Plan’ you must attain the required cumulative GPA and/or credit completion rate by the end of your ‘Warning Academic Plan’ period.
 - ‘Warning Academic Plan’ will remain in effect if you continue to meet the requirements specified by the academic plan and achieve a 2.0 term GPA and have a 67% term completion rate.
- **Financial Aid Suspension** – You will be placed on Financial Aid ‘Suspension’ if you meet any of the following:
 - ❖ Fail to comply during ‘Probation’ period
 - ❖ Fail to have an approved academic appeal
 - ❖ Fail to follow your academic plan*Note: Students on ‘Suspension’ are NOT eligible for financial aid.*
- **Financial Aid Probation** – Students who are placed on Financial Aid ‘Probation’ are those who have failed their ‘Warning’ period and have an approved academic appeal. *Note: Students on ‘Probation’ are eligible for financial aid.*
 - To be removed from ‘Probation’ you must attain the required cumulative GPA and/or credit completion rate by the end of your ‘Probation’ period.
- **Near Maximum Timeframe status** – Once your record shows you have attempted more than 110% of your undergraduate degree requirements; you will be placed on ‘Near Maximum Timeframe’ status. This status means that you are approaching the maximum timeframe for your degree program. *Note: You are still eligible for aid but will be required to complete and follow an academic plan.*
- **Exceeded Maximum Timeframe status** – Once you have attempted credits in excess of 150% of your attempted credits for your program, you will be placed in ‘Exceeded Maximum Timeframe’ status. *Note: You are NOT eligible for financial aid and will be required to personally pay for any additional semesters necessary. You may be able to complete an academic plan if you have one semester remaining.*

Notification of Eligibility

The minimum progress standards will be checked after each semester of enrollment (Summer, Fall and Spring). If you do not meet the minimum requirements AND you have been placed in either ‘Suspension’ or ‘Exceeded Maximum Timeframe’ status, refer to the “Appeals” or “Reestablishing” section.

Reestablishing Eligibility

Students suspended from financial aid eligibility may regain eligibility for financial aid by enrolling at their own expense and after attaining the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards. This may require enrollment in multiple semesters at SLC. Student returns to good standing only after meeting SAP standards. After meeting these standards, the student is no longer on suspension and is eligible to receive financial aid.

Suspended students may also regain financial aid eligibility if a Satisfactory Academic Progress appeal is approved. Students who have appeals approved will be placed on one semester of Probation and are required to follow an Academic Plan.

Appeals

Students have the right to appeal their suspension status based on non-academic, mitigating circumstances (i.e. death of an immediate family member, an extended illness, hospitalization, or injury of the student). All appeals require third party documentation. Students may appeal Financial Aid Suspension only once.

- **Suspension due to not meeting GPA or completion standards:** To appeal a financial aid suspension, students must complete the Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal. The appeal form is available in the Office of Financial Aid.
- **Suspension due to reaching Maximum Timeframe:** To appeal a maximum timeframe suspension, students must complete the Maximum Timeframe Appeal form. The student will also be required to follow an approved Academic Plan that will be set up by your Advisor. The Maximum Timeframe Appeal form is available in the Office of Financial Aid.

Program Changes

- **Change in Program:** Students who are in compliance with SLC's Satisfactory Academic Progress policy may change their program of study and remain eligible for financial aid. The maximum timeframe for financial aid will include all credits the student has attempted including those not applicable to the new program.
- **Additional Program of Study:** A student that has completed a degree or diploma program may be eligible for additional financial aid to complete another program of study. The maximum timeframe will still apply and students may need to submit a Timeframe Appeal to the Office of Financial Aid.

Credits Attempted

- Credits attempted include all credits enrolled in for a given semester.
- Remedial credits are included in your total hours attempted and, if successfully completed, credits earned. You can only receive financial aid for 30 remedial credits while taking only remedial credits. Once the limit is reached, your financial aid eligibility will only be based on program required classes that you are enrolled in.
- Repeated courses count against your maximum timeframe (total attempted credits) and reduce your completion rate because they count as earned credits only once.
- Transfer credits count toward your maximum timeframe and your completion rate.

Treatment of Grades

- **Attempted-Not Earned Credits:** I (incomplete) and W (withdrawn) are counted as credits attempted but not successfully completed.
- **Attempted-Earned Credits:** Letter grades of A, B, C, D, F count as completed credits.
- **Grade Point Average:** Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated using a grade point value for grades A, B, C, D, F
- **Incomplete Grade:** A grade of I (incomplete) may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. A grade of I is a temporary grade and will automatically become an F grade after 30 days.
- **Audited Courses:** Audited credits are not financial aid eligible and are excluded from academic progress calculations.

- **Consortium Credits:** Consortium credits are included in financial aid academic progress calculations.
- **Remedial Credits:** Students may receive financial aid for up to 30 remedial credits. These credits are included in academic progress calculations.
- **Repeated Credits:** Students may repeat a class once to review course material or improve a grade. Repeated credits are included in the completion rate and maximum timeframe calculations. All grades remain on the transcript. Only the highest grade recorded is included in the GPA calculation.
- **Transfer Credits:** Transfer credits (earned at another college and accepted by SLC) are excluded from the GPA calculation, but included in the completion rate and maximum timeframe calculations.
- **Withdrawals:** A W is assigned when a student withdraws from a class after the drop period for the semester has ended. W grades are considered attempted but not successfully completed credits. Grades of W do not impact the GPA calculation, but do negatively impact the completion rate and the maximum timeframe calculations.