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SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID POLICY

Applies to: Undergraduate students at NewU University receiving Federal Financial Aid

Purpose

To ensure continued eligibility for federal Title IV aid (e.g., Pell Grants, Direct Loans), students must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards in accordance with federal regulations under 34 CFR § 668.34.

1. Evaluation Frequency

SAP is evaluated **at the end of each payment period** (i.e., at the end of the fall semester and at the end of the spring semester).

2. SAP Standards

To maintain eligibility for aid, students must meet **all three** of the following standards:

A. Minimum Cumulative GPA

- At the end of the first payment period (one completed semester), no minimum cumulative GPA is required. Pace and maximum timeframe standards still apply.
- At the end of the first academic year (after two completed semesters), students must have **a cumulative GPA of at least 1.5**.
- At the end of the third semester (this is where students are expected to have completed 60 credits, which is the equivalent of a typical second academic year at other universities) and at every subsequent evaluation, students must have **a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0**, consistent with NewU's graduation requirements.

B. Completion Rate (Pace)

- Students must successfully complete at least **66.67%** of cumulative credits attempted.
 - Example: If a student attempts 30 credits, they must pass at least 20.

C. Maximum Timeframe

- Students must complete their degree within **150% of the published program length**.
 - Example: For a 3-year bachelor's degree (120 credits), students may attempt up to **180 credits**.

3. Definitions and Treatment of Credits

- **Attempted credits** include all enrolled courses, regardless of withdrawal, incomplete, or failing grades.
- **Completed credits** are those in which a passing grade was earned.
- **Transfer credits** accepted toward the degree count as both attempted and completed.
- **Repeated courses** count toward attempted credits each time; only the latest grade counts toward GPA.
- **Incomplete grades** count as attempted credits but do not count as completed credits until a final passing grade is recorded. If an incomplete is later resolved to a passing grade, the student's GPA and pace calculations are updated accordingly at the next evaluation.

4. Financial Aid Warning

- Students who fail SAP for the first time are placed on **Financial Aid Warning** for one academic year.
- Aid continues during the warning period; no appeal is needed.

5. Financial Aid Suspension

- If SAP is not regained after the warning year, the student's aid is **suspended**.
- Students may appeal to regain eligibility (see below).

6. Appeals Process

Students may appeal their suspension by submitting:

- A **written explanation** of extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness, death in family, housing insecurity),

- **Supporting documentation** (if applicable), and
- A plan for returning to good standing.

If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed on **Financial Aid Probation** for one payment period. If, at the time the appeal is granted, the institution determines that the student cannot reasonably be expected to meet SAP standards by the end of that payment period, the institution and the student will develop an **academic plan** that, if followed, will ensure the student meets SAP standards by a specific point in time.

7. Academic Plan

- Created with an academic advisor,
- Must be followed term-by-term until SAP is regained,
- Reviewed each term to determine ongoing aid eligibility.

8. Reinstatement of Financial Aid

Aid may be reinstated when:

- SAP standards are met again, or
- The student successfully follows the academic plan.

9. Notification

Students are notified in writing of their SAP status after each evaluation. Students on Financial Aid Warning, Financial Aid Probation, or an academic plan additionally receive written notification of their status, the terms of any plan, and the conditions for continued Title IV aid eligibility at the end of each payment period.

[End]