Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy 2025/2026

The federal government requires all schools participating in federal financial aid programs (e.g. Pell grant, Direct Loans, etc.) to have a Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy that meets the minimum federal requirements. This policy defines SAP, the process by which financial aid is revoked for failure to meet SAP minimum requirements, and the process by which students may appeal their SAP status.

The purpose of SAP standards is to ensure students are progressing toward their degree program in a timely manner ("Good Standing"). A student's SAP status affects their ability to receive aid. All students will be evaluated for SAP status at the conclusion of each term. SAP is measured by three federal standards:

1. **Minimum Cumulative GPA (cGPA)** – Students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
2. **Minimum Cumulative Credit Completion Pace (cPace)** – Students must successfully complete (grades of A, B, C, D*, or P) at least two-thirds, or 66.67%, of their total attempted RCC credits.

	Total Credits Completed	divided by	Total Credits Attempted	equals	Pace
Enter your hours:		÷		=	
Example:	10	÷	12	=	83.33%

*D grades count as a successful when determining cPACE, but <u>unsuccessful</u> for Credit Extension Appeal (CEA) and degree requirements.

3. **Maximum Time Frame** – Students must be able to complete their declared major within 150% of their program length. For example, the Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer major requires 90 credits for completion. 90 x 150% = 135. A student with that major would need to be able to complete it within 135 attempted credits (transfer credits for that major count in attempted). Program length does not include up to 45 attempted developmental education (DE) credits (under 100 level, such as MTH20).

   If the student cannot complete within that maximum, or if they have already earned an associate degree or higher, they are not aid eligible without an approved appeal.

A student who meets all the SAP requirements above is in **GOOD STANDING**. Students who do not meet these requirements are subject to the following SAP statuses.

FINANCIAL AID WARNING STATUS: Students who fail to meet the cGPA and/or cPace standard will be placed on Warning status, still qualifying for financial aid. These students will receive a SAP Warning letter reminding them of SAP requirements. At the end of their next term, students who started on Warning status and are again unsuccessful in meeting the minimum standards will be moved to Financial Aid Suspension status.

FINANCIAL AID SUSPENSION STATUS: Students on Warning status who do not successfully achieve Good Standing after their next term, students who have or will exceed the 150% Max Time Frame requirement, and students who already have an associate degree or higher are immediately placed on Financial Aid Suspension status. Suspension halts eligibility for all federal, state, and institutional aid.

REESTABLISHING FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY: Students placed on Financial Aid Suspension status may reestablish financial aid eligibility with an approved SAP appeal. The appeal must describe the extenuating circumstances that led to suspension (including any supporting documentation) and explain what they will do differently to ensure success in future terms. See [Financial Aid Forms](#) for the SAP appeal form. If a SAP appeal is not approved, students can pay for classes without aid until they have reached Good Standing.

PROBATION (AID ELIGIBLE) STATUS: Students who successfully appeal their Financial Aid Suspension status are placed on Probation (Aid Eligible) status. Students who require additional Probation (Aid Eligible) terms to get to Good Standing must submit a new appeal each term, as necessary.

APPEAL DECISIONS: The Financial Aid Office will review appeals and notify the student via email of the decision. If approved, the student is placed on Probation (Aid Eligible) status and will receive an Award Letter or Eligibility Notification. If denied, the student will remain on Financial Aid Suspension status and will not receive federal, state, or institutional aid. If a student believes their appeal was misunderstood and has additional clarification and/or documentation, the student may re-appeal a denial ONCE and the SAP Committee will review it. SAP Committee decisions are final and no further appeals concerning the same situation or term will be considered.

Students have the right to appeal multiple SAP Suspensions. Additionally, students who indicate a medical issue as the reason for being unsuccessful should be prepared to provide a release from a medical professional as supporting documentation for their appeal.

REPEATING A COURSE: While on aid, a course may be repeated if not successfully passed the first time. Repeated courses are counted as part of the student's cPACE and Maximum Time Frame.

INCOMPLETE ("I") GRADES: Incomplete ("I") grades are considered unsuccessful in a student's cPACE calculation. Once an "I" grade is updated to the earned grade, the Financial Aid Office may retroactively evaluate the student's SAP status and adjust it accordingly.