Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy: Financial Aid

Federal regulations require all students receiving aid to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward a degree or certificate in order to retain eligibility for financial aid. Failure to maintain SAP will result in disqualification from federal & state student aid programs at UWS.

SAP Policy Elements:

Qualitative Measure
- Grade Point Average (GPA): UWS students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cum. GPA.
- Please refer to the grading system in the UWS catalog regarding GPA calculation.

Quantitative Measure
- “Pace” of progression (earned credits divided by attempted credits): UWS students must achieve a cumulative pace of 80%. 80% of all attempted credits must be passed to maintain SAP for all programs.
- “Maximum timeframe” (maximum number of attempted credits)
  The maximum timeframe for MT and Masters programs is 150% of the published length of the program in credit hours. For DC the maximum timeframe is 125%:
  - DC: 418 x 125% = 523 Maximum Attempted Credits (MAC)
  - MT: 50.5 x 150% = 75.8 MAC
  - MS Sports and Exercise Science: 64 x 150% = 80 MAC
  - MS Nutrition and Functional Medicine: 50 x 150% = 75 MAC

Evaluation Frequency and Scope:

- All components of SAP will be evaluated after grades are posted at the end of each term.
- All UWS credits must be considered, whether or not financial aid was received.

Failure to Meet SAP Standards:

- Students who fail to meet SAP standards will be notified of their status in writing by the Financial Aid Office.
  - Financial Aid Warning: This is an automatically assigned status that allows a student who fails to make SAP to continue to receive aid for one term of enrollment.
  - Financial Aid Probation: This status is assigned to a student who has failed SAP and has successfully appealed, and thus had aid eligibility reinstated for one term. At the end of the probation term, the student must regain SAP or be meeting the conditions of his or her academic plan.
  - Financial Aid Suspension: This status is assigned when a student on Financial Aid Warning fails to regain SAP after the Financial Aid Warning term or when a student on Financial Aid Probation fails to meet the conditions of his or her Academic Plan (see “Academic Plan” below). All financial aid is terminated immediately upon determination of Financial Aid Suspension status.

Financial Aid Office
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Appealing for reinstatement of eligibility:

- A student who is placed on Financial Aid Suspension may appeal for reinstatement of financial aid eligibility. The appeal must address why the student did not meet SAP standards, and what has changed in the student’s situation that will allow the student to meet SAP at the next evaluation. Appeals must be accompanied by an Academic Plan as described below, except in select cases where the FA office determines a student can reasonably meet SAP standards within one term.
- Failure to properly manage one’s time and/or failure to seek recommended academic tutoring do not constitute special circumstances and are not sufficient basis to approve a SAP appeal.

Academic Plan:

- An Academic Plan is a plan developed by Academic Affairs & the student to ensure that the student makes measured progress towards successful degree completion.
- As long as the student meets the conditions of the plan, the student can continue to receive aid.
- If the student fails to meet the conditions of the academic plan, the student loses Title IV aid eligibility, though reserves the right to a subsequent appeal if new circumstances present.

Re-establishing Satisfactory Progress:

- A student who is placed on Financial Aid Suspension and does not appeal, or whose appeal is denied, may re-establish SAP by regaining the required qualitative and quantitative measures.
- SAP status will be measured at the end of each term for all students, including those on Financial Aid Suspension.
- Students who re-establish SAP will be notified by the Financial Aid Office.

Impact of various non-passing grades:

- Incomplete (‘I’) and remedial (‘R’) grades count as unearned, attempted credits for the quantitative component of SAP. The qualitative measure is not affected by incompletes.
  - If a student does not meet SAP due to outstanding ‘I’/’R’ grades, the student may request a new calculation of SAP status once a term grade is assigned.
  - Once assigned, the term grade will be calculated into future evaluations of both qualitative and quantitative measures under the normal end of term calculation.
- Withdrawals (‘W’) are included as ‘attempted credits’ for the quantitative measure.
- Course repeats: All course attempts will be counted in the quantitative measures. Only the most recent grade will be counted in the qualitative measure.
- Treatment of transfer credits (‘T’) and credits by exemption (‘X’): All credits accepted or transfer (‘T’) and/or exemption (‘X’) are counted as both attempted and earned for the quantitative measure. The qualitative measure is not affected by transfer and/or exemption credits.