



Policy Chapter: Chapter 7 Student Affairs

Policy Number and Title: 07.004 Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements for Financial Assistance

I. Policy Statement

Federal and state regulations require the University of North Texas to monitor student academic progress to ensure students are making satisfactory progress toward their degree or credential to remain eligible to receive financial aid. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAS) monitors the academic progress of students to determine continued eligibility for financial aid.

II. Application of Policy

All undergraduate and graduate students who are applying for and receiving financial assistance.

III. Policy Definitions

A. Academic Plan

“Academic Plan,” in this policy, is a financial aid status assigned to a student who will be monitored in accordance with the terms of an approved academic plan. This status is assigned when a student’s appeal is approved following a term on financial aid probation and FAS determines that the student will meet satisfactory academic progress (SAP) standards by the end of the academic plan. Students are eligible to receive financial aid while on an approved Academic Plan status.

B. Academic Progress

“Academic Progress,” in this policy, means the qualitative and quantitative measures of a student's progress toward completing requirements for a degree or credential.

C. Academic Term

“Academic Term,” in this policy, means a period of student enrollment. The university academic calendar includes three (3) terms including a fall, spring, and summer.

D. Financial Aid Suspension

“Financial Aid Suspension,” in this policy, is a financial aid status assigned to a student who has not met SAP standards for two consecutive terms of enrollment or who has met or exceeded the maximum timeframe. Students are not eligible to receive financial aid funds while on a Financial Aid Suspension status.

E. Financial Aid Probation

“Financial Aid Probation,” in this policy, is a financial aid status assigned to a student who has successfully appealed a “Financial Aid Suspension” status. Students are eligible to receive financial aid funds on a Financial Aid Probation status.

F. Financial Aid Warning

“Financial Aid Warning,” in this policy, is a financial aid status assigned to a student following a single academic term in which the student did not meet SAP standards. Students are eligible to receive financial aid funds on a Financial Aid Warning status.

G. Grade Point Average (GPA)

“Grade Point Average,” in this policy, mean the calculation by dividing the total number of grade points by the total number of graded semester credit hours attempted in residence at UNT. Graded hours include all courses with grades of A (4.0), B (3.0), C (2.0), D (1.0), F, or WF. Courses with grades of I, N, P, PR, W, or Z are not counted in the GPA for qualitative assessment but are counted as attempted hours for the quantitative assessment of SAP.

H. Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship

“Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship,” in this policy, means the UNT office responsible for evaluating student academic progress to determine initial and continued eligibility for student financial aid.

IV. Policy Responsibilities

A. Evaluation of Satisfactory Academic Progress

FAS monitors the academic progress of each recipient and potential recipient of financial aid. SAP is evaluated at the end of every academic term following the posting of final grades to determine continued eligibility for financial aid. Evaluations of SAP by FAS are conducted exclusively to consider eligibility for aid and neither replace nor override other UNT academic policies related to evaluation of a student's academic standing. The standards of SAP are either the same as or stricter than all other UNT academic progress standards for students.

B. Satisfactory Academic Progress

Every graduate and undergraduate student who receives financial aid must meet SAP criteria to remain eligible for financial aid, regardless of whether the student is a first-time applicant or has received aid in the past, and regardless of whether the student attends UNT full-time or part-time. To meet the criteria of SAP, students must meet both qualitative and quantitative standards at the end of each academic term as defined below.

1. Qualitative Requirements for SAP

To meet the standard for SAP, students must meet or exceed the following grade point average at the end of the academic term. The grade point average utilized for SAP, referred to as the University of North Texas Cumulative GPA (UNT-CGPA), includes courses attempted in residence at UNT in which a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F is assigned unless replaced by a later grade. Not included in the UNT-CGPA are Developmental/Remedial courses or courses with a grade of I, NP, NPR, P, PR, W, or Z.

- a. Undergraduate students must maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point

average. Failure to meet this standard after the first term of enrollment will result in a “Financial Aid Warning” status.

- b. Graduate students must maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average for all subsequent terms. Failure to meet this standard after the first term of enrollment will result in a “Financial Aid Warning” status.

2. Quantitative Requirements for SAP

To meet the standard for SAP, students must meet a pace of progression which ensures students are on track to complete their program within the maximum timeframe. All attempts of a course, including passed courses, non-passed courses, repeated courses, incompletes, withdrawals, and earned transfer or test credit are included in the calculation for pace of progression and maximum timeframe.

a. *Pace of Progression*

Pace of progression is calculated by dividing the cumulative number of semester credit hours the student has earned by the cumulative number of semester credit hours the student has attempted. Students must maintain a pace of progression that will enable a student to graduate within their program’s maximum timeframe. Additional information about pace of progression may be found on the [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) website.

b. *Maximum Timeframe for Degree Completion*

Maximum timeframe refers to the maximum number of hours or terms a student may attempt toward a degree program and remain eligible for financial aid. Students who meet or exceed the maximum timeframe are not eligible for financial aid in their next term of enrollment.

- i. Undergraduate students must complete their degree plan requirements within 150 percent of the published semester credit hours required for their degree program.
- ii. Graduate students must complete their master's or doctoral degree program within the published length of the program measured by the number of academic years at UNT including Fall, Spring, and Summer academic terms.

C. *Financial Aid Warning*

Students who fail to meet SAP qualitative or pace standards at the completion of their first term of enrollment or after having met SAP standards in the previous term of enrollment will be placed on a “Financial Aid Warning” status. Students are allowed to receive financial aid while on a financial aid warning status. Students cannot be placed on financial aid warning for consecutive terms of enrollment. Notification of a student’s financial aid warning status is sent via email to the student’s university (EagleConnect) email address.

D. Financial Aid Suspension

Students who fail to meet either SAP qualitative or pace standard for two consecutive terms of enrollment, or who meet (or exceed) the maximum timeframe will be placed on a “Financial Aid Suspension” status. A student on financial aid suspension is not eligible to receive financial aid. Notification of a student’s financial aid suspension status is sent via email to the student’s university (EagleConnect) email address. The notice will include details regarding the process for reestablishing eligibility.

E. Loss of Eligibility Appeal

Students on “Financial Aid Suspension” who have experienced an extenuating circumstance which impacted their academic progress may appeal the loss of financial aid eligibility by submitting a written appeal with supporting documentation to FAS no later than the last day of class of the academic term for which a student is appealing. Additional information about the appeal process may be found on the [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal](#) website. Students who successfully appeal “Financial Aid Suspension” will be placed on a “Financial Aid Probation” status.

V. References and Cross-References

- [34 C.F.R. §§ 668.16\(e\), 668.32\(f\) & 668.34](#)
- [Satisfactory Academic Progress Information](#)
- [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal](#)
- [UNT Grade Point Averages](#)

VI. Revision History

Policy Contact:	VP for Enrollment
Approved Date:	04/01/1974
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Revisions:	10/1978, 08/1994, 08/1999, 06/2003, 10/2012, 05/2015, 11/2020, 09/2021, 09/15/2024