

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) STANDARDS

The Financial Aid Office at Augusta State University administers Title IV Federal Student Aid under guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education. The Secretary of Education requires schools to develop and implement policies by which academic progress is evaluated and monitored. Students must meet satisfactory academic progress (SAP) standards at the end of each grading period, unless otherwise indicated, in order to continue receiving Title IV financial aid and State funded aid (HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, Hero, Student Access Loan, etc.). Title IV aid includes Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, TEACH Grants, Federal Work Study, Federal Direct Loans and Federal Perkins Loans.

In accordance with new federal SAP regulations, the current ASU SAP standards have been revised to comply with the new requirements outlined in the new regulations:

- SAP must be calculated at the end of every semester.
- A student in satisfactory status failing to meet the SAP standards for the first time at the end of a semester will be placed on a SAP **“Warning”** status.
- A student may continue to receive financial aid for **one** payment period while in a **“Warning”** status.
- A student failing to meet the SAP standards after an initial **“Warning”** will no longer be eligible to receive financial aid. The student will be placed in a **“Terminated”** status.
- A student in a **“Terminated”** status may appeal. If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed in a **“Probation”** status.
- A student in a **“Probation”** status **must** successfully maintain the terms of his/her academic plan. Failure to comply with the assigned academic plan will result in a student being placed in a **“Terminated”** status.
- Students who have reached the maximum allowable time frame or Learning Support hours will be automatically placed in a **“Terminated”** status.

SAP requires a student to proceed in a positive manner toward fulfilling his/her degree requirements. **It necessitates progression in both GPA and Pace (rate of progression).** The minimum acceptable standards for receiving financial aid at ASU are as follows:

GPA – All financial aid recipients are expected to earn the minimum required grade point average (GPA) that corresponds with the total number of hours attempted. *Please refer to the ASU Student Handbook for more information on this chart.

Undergraduate Credit Level (Hours Attempted)	Minimum Required Overall GPA
0-16	.50
17-29	1.30
30-59	1.60
60-89	1.90
90 and above	2.00

PACE – All financial aid recipients are expected to earn a minimum percentage of their total hours attempted (including learning support attempted hours and all attempts for courses repeated), and must complete degree requirements within the maximum allowable time frame.

- Students must successfully complete courses attempted. The minimum acceptable course completion rate is **67%** of the total hours attempted. Successful completion is limited to the grades of **A, B, C, D and S**. The grades of **F, WF, W, U, I, IP,** and **NR** are considered unsuccessful attempts. To calculate completion rate divide earned hours by attempted hours.
- Students must complete the program of study within a reasonable time frame. The maximum allowable time frame is **150%** of the total hours required for degree completion. This applies to all undergraduate and graduate programs of study. For example, majors requiring **125** hours will be allowed up to **188** attempted hours ($125 \times 1.5 = 188$).
- If a student is granted Academic Amnesty/Renewal, all hours are still subject to the overall standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress.

TERMINATION - If the standards are not met, the student will be notified of his/her ineligibility for additional aid via ASU email. This information is also viewable on the student's ELROY account. Once the minimum SAP standards are met, financial aid eligibility will be reinstated.

APPEAL PROCESS - In cases of extreme and/or unusual circumstances, students may submit an SAP Appeal Form (available online) to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. This document may only be submitted during the dates specified on the FAO website. The appeal must be specific, in writing, and must address the student's entire previous academic performance as well as steps the student is taking or will take to improve. If an appeal is approved the student will be notified via email and asked to complete and submit an Academic Plan (online).

The Academic Plan portion must be completed with the student's academic advisor. It should reflect all of the coursework required for the following three semesters. Once the Academic Plan is received by the Financial Aid Office, the student will be placed in "Probation" status. During the probationary period, students must satisfactorily complete all hours attempted in order to receive future financial aid. Upon successful completion of the Academic Plan, a student will be required to submit a **new** Academic Plan for the upcoming three semesters if his/her SAP status remains below the minimum standards. **Students appealing Maximum Allowable Time Frame must complete and submit the SAP Appeal Form and Academic Plan form together.** Only 3 appeals may be submitted during a student's enrollment at Augusta State University.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS must maintain a GPA as specified on previous page.

New Transfer Students - New transfer students will be monitored at the time of matriculation. All courses accepted by ASU for transfer credit will be calculated in your SAP.

Learning Support Students - Financial aid is available for thirty (30) attempted hours of learning support coursework (including ASU attempted hours and transfer attempted hours). Students required to take learning support coursework will be monitored each semester after grading. Students who volunteer for learning support coursework are ineligible for Title IV aid. Any student who registers for learning support coursework, knowingly or unknowingly, in excess of the maximum allowable attempted learning support hours must repay all funds received.

Double Majors – Students with double majors will be allowed an additional 45 attempted hours not to exceed a total of 233 attempted hours. They must also maintain the minimum required overall GPA based on their attempted hours.

POST-BACCALAUREATE STUDENTS require a GPA of 2.0 and must meet other conditions as stated below. Post-Bacc students will also be required to submit a **Post-Baccalaureate Certification Form** to be completed with their academic advisor.

Additional Degree - Students will be allowed an additional 45 attempted hours not to exceed a total of 233 attempted hours.

Preparatory Coursework - Students not enrolled in a degree or certificate program are eligible for loans for one consecutive 12 month period if they are taking coursework required for enrollment in an eligible program.

Teacher Certification – In order to be eligible for loans, a student must be enrolled at least half-time in required teacher certification coursework, even if it does not lead to a degree or certificate awarded by the school. To qualify, the coursework must be required for elementary or secondary teacher certification or recertification in the state where the student plans to teach. Additionally, students must submit a letter from the departmental chair confirming the preparatory coursework is required for teacher certification.

GRADUATE STUDENTS require a GPA of 3.0 and must meet other conditions as stated below:

SAP standards will be monitored each semester after grading. Any graduate student found in violation of these standards will receive a termination letter with an opportunity to appeal.

Post-Graduate Students – Post Graduate students are typically not eligible for financial aid. Exceptions may be made if the student can prove he/she will earn a degree or certification as a result of the courses taken.