

Clark College Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Students must meet Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy requirements to remain eligible for federal, state, and institutional financial aid. SAP is evaluated annually when the financial aid application is reviewed, and at the end of each payment period (term), the student is enrolled. Students are notified via email if SAP conditions are not met. All terms of attendance, including those in which financial aid was not received, are used in determining SAP status.

SAP Policy Standards

Three standards of the SAP Policy are evaluated at the end of each term:

1. Grade Point Average

The grade point average (GPA) requirement is to establish and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA (C grade average). If the cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 at the end of the term, the student will not have met the GPA requirement to remain in good standing. In addition, a student must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA at the end of their sixth term, or an automatic suspension will occur. Courses with an S (Satisfactory), U (Unsatisfactory), I (Incomplete), and W (Withdrawal) do not have an impact on GPA. An S (Satisfactory) grade is equivalent to 2.0. For repeated coursework, only the highest grade achieved will count in the GPA calculation.

2. Pace of Progression

Pace of Progression is calculated by dividing the cumulative earned credits by the cumulative attempted credits. When this calculation falls below 67%, a student is no longer on pace to graduate on time. Pace of progression that is 66.6% or higher will be rounded to 67%. Whether or not aid was received, all program credits, including transfer and remedial credits, will be taken into consideration. Courses with grades of F (Failed), I (Incomplete), U (Unsatisfactory), W (Withdrawal), Y (In Progress), and repeated courses are included in the calculation of attempted credits. Only the highest grade achieved will count as attempted and earned credit for repeated courses. Courses approved on Set-Aside Petitions will count as attempted credits. Non-graded coursework and (*) grades are excluded from pace of progression for credit-bearing classes. Program changes do not affect the pace of progression.

3. Maximum Timeframe

Maximum Timeframe is measured to ensure students are taking the required courses to complete their certificate or degree. Program progression must be reviewed when students reach 150% of the length of the program. Financial aid recipients will be ineligible for further funding if it is mathematically impossible to complete the program of study within 150% of the length of the program. All credits, regardless of whether they were taken while on financial aid, including credits removed with an approved Set-Aside Petition, are used in calculating the maximum timeframe. Transfer credits accepted for use towards the current certificate or degree are also included. Repeated credits (R grades) are counted as attempted towards the maximum timeframe. Transitional support coursework that is attempted and results in an asterisk (*) grade, such as ABE, GED, ESL, ENL, and some CAP coursework, and all remedial coursework that is labeled under 100 level, is excluded from the maximum timeframe calculation. Program changes do not reset the maximum timeframe.

Additional Maximum Timeframe Information

Maximum credit warning notifications will be issued when a student has attempted between 125% and 149.999% of the credits required for their declared program. Once a student has attempted 150% of the credits required for their declared program, financial aid will be suspended.

SAP Statuses and Definitions

Financial Aid Warning

Students will be placed on Financial Aid Warning for one term if:

- Cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 at the end of a term and/or
- Pace of progression is less than 67%

Students on Warning are eligible to receive financial aid the next term of attendance, but are in jeopardy of losing their financial aid eligibility. If all SAP requirements are not met at the end of the next term of attendance, financial aid will be suspended. Warning status will be cleared if all SAP requirements are met at the end of the next term of attendance.

Financial Aid Suspension

Students will be placed on financial aid suspension if:

- Cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0 at the end of the 6th term of attendance and beyond, and/or
- Maximum Timeframe is reached and/or

On Financial Aid Warning/Probation and

- Cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 at the end of the term and/or
- Pace of progression is less than 67% and/or
- Conditions of their Academic Plan have not been met

Students on financial aid suspension are not eligible for future financial aid, including grants, work-study, and loans. Financial Aid Suspension remains in place until the student has an approved appeal or has met the reinstatement criteria (See Regaining Financial Aid Eligibility).

Financial Aid Probation

If the Financial Aid Committee approves a student's appeal, financial aid will be reactivated on a probationary status. Students on Probation are eligible to receive financial aid.

Probation status will be cleared if all SAP requirements are met at the end of the next term of attendance. If all SAP requirements are not met at the end of the probationary term, a Financial Aid Suspension will occur (see Financial Aid Warning section for details).

If it is mathematically impossible to meet all SAP requirements by the end of the next term of attendance, the Financial Aid Committee may approve an appeal on an Academic Plan, allowing for an extended probationary period. If at any time while on an academic plan, the student does not achieve progress towards meeting the pace, GPA requirements, or other conditions set by the Committee, a Financial Aid Suspension will occur (see Financial Aid Suspension section for details).

Appeals

Students have the option to submit an appeal to address financial aid suspension for not meeting any combination of the SAP elements. Appeals must be submitted by the priority processing date listed on the [Satisfactory Academic Progress webpage](#),¹ in order to be considered for federal (Pell Grant, subsidized/unsubsidized loans, etc.) financial aid for that term and include all required documentation listed under the appeal type. Incomplete appeals will not be considered.

Appeals are reviewed by an Appeals Committee, which consists of financial aid representatives. The Committee's decision is final and cannot be appealed further. If the appeal is approved, the student will

be placed on a probationary status. The Committee has the authority to restrict students to specific academic conditions, including but not limited to enrolling in a certain number of credits and/or specific coursework, meeting with a Student Success Coach, or earning a specific term GPA, etc. Students are notified of their decision through email.

If approved, aid is reactivated based on available funding at the time the appeal is approved and may not reflect the original aid offer. An approved appeal does not negate any repayment owed to the financial aid programs or Clark College.

The Financial Aid Office does not guarantee that an appeal submitted will result in approval. The student is responsible for paying any and all costs of attendance while awaiting an appeal outcome.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Appeal

Failure to maintain good academic standing may be the result of circumstances beyond the student's control. In cases of students' illness, injury, a death in the family, or other unusual circumstances, students may appeal to regain financial aid eligibility. **Students are limited to two (2) SAP appeals at Clark College.** The Maximum Timeframe Appeal and Change of Records SAP Review are excluded from this limit. Students who submit a subsequent appeal for the same circumstance will not be considered.

The appeal must include:

1. [SAP Appeal Form₂](#)
2. Typed and signed personal statement explaining the unusual circumstances, what has changed, and the steps taken to ensure academic success in the future
3. Supporting documentation confirming the circumstances presented in the personal statement

Maximum Timeframe Appeal

When students are suspended from financial aid due to reaching 150% of the credits required for their program, there is an option to file an appeal. If a student has a prior maximum timeframe appeal and would like to change any condition(s) of the prior approval (change of program, request additional credits, fund an additional program), the student may submit a new Maximum Timeframe appeal to the Financial Aid Office for consideration. If the additional appeal is approved, new conditions will be applied.

The appeal must include:

1. [Maximum Timeframe Appeal Form₃](#)
2. Typed and signed personal statement explaining the reason why additional credits are needed to complete the program of study
3. A current academic advisement report completed and signed by the student and program advisor

Maximum Timeframe and SAP Suspension Appeal

When students are suspended from financial aid due to reaching 150% of credits required for their program and failure to meet the cumulative GPA and/or pace of progression requirements, there is an option to file an appeal to address both issues:

The appeal must include:

1. [Satisfactory Academic & Maximum Timeframe Appeal Form₄](#)

2. Typed and signed personal statement explaining the unusual circumstances that resulted in not meeting SAP, what has changed, and the steps taken to ensure academic success in the future, as well as the reason for needing additional credits to complete the program of study
3. Supporting documentation confirming the circumstances presented in the personal statement
4. A current academic advisement report completed and signed by the student and program advisor

Change of Records SAP Review

SAP is evaluated both annually and at the end of each term. SAP can be reevaluated for a grade or program change that occurs between formal SAP evaluations. When the Financial Aid Office is notified of a grade or program change through the submission of a Change of Records SAP Review, SAP will be re-run for the affected term. Students will be notified of any changes to their SAP status via email.

To have SAP reevaluated, submit the [Change of Records SAP Review Form](#)⁵

Reinstatement Criteria

If a student chooses not to appeal or has exhausted the two (2) appeal limit they may be eligible for reinstatement when they have satisfied the following conditions:

1. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher, and
2. Have a pace of progression of 67% or higher, and
3. Have not reached the Maximum Timeframe for their program.

In the reinstatement term, receiving grades of F (Failed), I (Incomplete), U (Unsatisfactory), W (Withdrawal), and repeating courses may hinder eligibility for financial aid reinstatement and could increase the number of credits required to reinstate.

When the reinstatement criteria are met, aid is reactivated based on available funding and may not reflect the original aid offer. Meeting reinstatement criteria does not negate any repayment owed to the financial aid programs or Clark College.

Financial Aid Limitations

- FLPC, ESL, IELP, and most CAP classes are not eligible for financial aid. Only CAP 46 and 90 are eligible for financial aid.
- Repeating Courses: Once credit is earned, financial aid can only fund one additional attempt of a course.
- Financial aid can fund up to 45 credits of remedial coursework.
- Repayment obligations cannot be appealed.
- Lifetime eligibility limits cannot be appealed

This Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy is subject to change at any time due to federal, state, and/or institutional regulations.

¹ <https://www.clark.edu/enroll/paying-for-college/financial-aid/maintain-aid/>

² <https://www.clark.edu/enroll/paying-for-college/documents/sap-appeal.pdf>

³ <https://www.clark.edu/enroll/paying-for-college/documents/max-appeal.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.clark.edu/enroll/paying-for-college/documents/sap-max-appeal.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.clark.edu/enroll/paying-for-college/documents/change-of-records-sap-review.pdf>