



## **SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY**

The Higher Education Act of 1965 requires Denison University to establish and apply standards of academic progress that must be met by all students for them to qualify and remain eligible for assistance from Title IV student financial aid programs. At the end of each semester, the Financial Aid Office will monitor the quantitative and qualitative components of the general Satisfactory Academic Progress policy for all students receiving financial aid. Institutional and state grant aid follow the same federal requirements.

Federal Title IV aid programs include:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Work-Study (FWS)
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loan
- Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

### **QUANTITATIVE (Completed Course Credits)**

This component of Satisfactory Academic Progress measures the number of course credits completed versus the number of courses credits attempted. Students at Denison must earn 75% of the cumulative courses attempted to maintain the minimum SAP standard for federal financial aid.

*Note: Students must earn over 96% of cumulative courses attempted to graduate in 8 semesters; the maximum number of semesters that students can receive Denison gift aid.*

Attempted courses are:

- Courses in which student is officially enrolled at end of each Add/Drop period
- Courses that result in a final grade of Incomplete
- Credits from which students withdraw after the Add/Drop period and do not satisfactorily complete
- Transfer credits accepted toward a student's degree by the Registrar
- Advancement Placement Credits
- Repeat coursework

**PACE = cumulative hours earned ÷ cumulative hours attempted**

For example, if a student enrolls in or "attempts" twelve credits in the semester and successfully completes, or earns, nine of those credits, the student's completion rate is  $9 \div 12 = 75\%$ . If a student completes six out of nine credits, the student's completion rate is  $6 \div 9 = 66.67\%$ . Standard rounding rules apply, so this result would be rounded up to 67%.

For federal financial aid, half-time enrollment is defined as 6 - 8 credits; three-quarter time enrollment is defined as 9 - 11 credits. Quantitative satisfactory progress for half-time and for three-quarter time students will also be based on students earning 75% of cumulative hours attempted at each SAP review.

## **QUALITATIVE (Cumulative GPA)**

Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average.

## **MAXIMUM TIME FRAME**

1. Students failing to complete a degree program in eight semesters of attendance shall be ineligible for institutional financial aid.
  - Denison students with institutional aid need to earn a greater percentage of courses attempted than the minimum standard to graduate in 8 semesters.
  - To retain a merit scholarship, students must maintain the cumulative GPA requirement set forth in the scholarship award letter from the Office of Admission, which is a cumulative 2.0 or higher.
2. Eligibility for state grant financial aid ends after 8 semesters.
3. Federal financial aid eligibility ceases once a student has attempted 150% of the required coursework for their degree. Denison programs require 126 credit hours. Once it is determined that a student cannot complete their program within the 150% limit of 189 hours, they will become ineligible for financial aid. There are no appeals for maximum time limits.
4. International transfer students who have not previously attended college in the U.S. will be eligible for a minimum of 6 semesters of financial aid.

## **GRADES USED IN DETERMINING SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

Grades of "A+/-," "B+/-," "C+/-," "D+/-," "S," "P," or "CR" are considered successfully attempted in the completion of course credit. Grades of "F," "I\*," "U," "W," "NG," "NR," "AU," and "PR," are considered attempted but not successfully completed for course credit.

\*If a grade of "I" is converted to any successfully attempted grade, a student may have their Satisfactory Academic Progress standing recalculated.

## **EVALUATION PERIOD**

At the end of each semester, which is the end of the payment period, the Office of Financial Aid will evaluate the quantitative and qualitative components of the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy for all enrolled students receiving financial aid, both federal and institutional. Denison University has two evaluation periods; Fall and Spring semesters. Denison University does not have a summer semester evaluation period since no students are enrolled. At the end of the evaluation period the student will be given a status of satisfactory; making academic progress, warning, denied.

## **WARNING**

For the first time a student fails to achieve the 2.0 GPA\* AND/OR is deficient in credits for satisfactory progress (prior to the fifth semester of attendance), the student will be emailed a letter of warning to their Denison email. The student is automatically given aid for one more payment period and is warned that he or she must achieve satisfactory academic progress for both the GPA and the number of hours to be earned during the warning payment period or financial aid will be denied for the next payment period.

\*Note: Federal regulations require a student in a program of more than two academic years the student is required to have achieved the equivalent of a "C" average after the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of attendance. If a student fails to achieve a 2.0 GPA (C average for Denison) for any semester after the 4<sup>th</sup> semester of attendance at Denison, he or she is automatically denied any additional federal aid. If a student is eligible to submit an appeal, information about this process will be provided in the email of aid denial to the student. *A student must take course work at Denison University to raise the cumulative GPA.*

### **DENIED STATUS AND APPEALS**

An appeal from a student for a waiver of this regulation may be made to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee if the student has undergone undue hardship resulting from the death of a relative of the student, an injury or illness of the student, or other special circumstances. The student must submit a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal form. The appeal personal statement and supporting documentation must include information about why the student failed to make satisfactory academic progress and what has changed in the student's situation that would allow the student to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress at the next evaluation by the University. Appeals from students not received by the prescribed deadline may not be reviewed.

Students are notified by email within 10 business days of the committee's review and all appeals decision are final.

### **PROBATION**

If a student fails to have a cumulative 2.0 GPA AND/OR is still deficient in credits for satisfactory progress after the semester for which a student received a warning, the student is denied all aid for the next payment period. If a student is eligible to submit an appeal, information about this process will be provided in the email of aid denial to the student. If the student's appeal for additional aid is approved by the University and the student is put on probation, the aid is reinstated for only one additional payment period. If the student fails to achieve satisfactory academic progress after the probation period, the student is not eligible for any additional aid at Denison until the student can resolve the academic deficiencies at Denison that reinstates satisfactory academic progress for the student.

In limited circumstances, the Academic Standing Board has determined a student may need more than the probationary period to achieve the satisfactory academic progress requirements. In these cases, a student will be placed on an Academic Plan, which will outline the number of semesters needed and the grades and or deficiency points needed to regain satisfactory academic progress eligibility.

### **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

A full-time student is defined as one who is enrolled for at least 12 semester credits. A student must be enrolled full-time to receive any type of Denison and/or state financial aid. A student must be enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours) to receive federal Direct Student Loans. The Federal Pell Grant allows for less than half-time enrollment.

*NOTE: Full-time enrollment cannot include courses that have been taken and passed at Denison but are being repeated for a higher grade.*

### **MEDICAL WITHDRAWAL**

Students who are granted a medical withdrawal will be eligible for a ninth semester of financial aid. Student's financial aid packages will be adjusted from the norm by the federally mandated loan proration, if applicable. Students with subsequent medical withdrawals will not be granted additional semesters of financial aid.