



EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

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Financial Aid, Veterans Affairs, Student Employment Office

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy for Financial Aid Applicants

The Satisfactory Academic Progress policy at Eastern Connecticut State University applies to student aid applicants only. The policy is based on federal guidelines that require each college and university to ensure that student aid applicants are progressing through their academic programs at an acceptable pace while maintaining an acceptable cumulative grade point average. This policy is separate and apart from other academic policies at the university.

The SAP policy includes the four standards. Students failing one or more of the standards are determined to be academically ineligible to receive financial aid from the programs managed by the Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs Office for the entire academic year (e.g. Fall, Spring and/or Summer semesters).

Financial Aid Programs Impacted by SAP Standards

*Federal Pell Grant	Federal Veterans Educational Benefits
Federal SEOG	CT Aid to Public College Students Grant
Federal Perkins Loan	CT Capitol Scholarship
Federal Stafford Loan (subsidized and unsubsidized)	CT GEAR UP Scholarship
Federal PLUS Loan	CT GEAR UP II Scholarship
Federal Grad PLUS Loan	Designated State Scholarship and Grant Programs Designated
Federal Work Study	Alternative/Private Loans

*Note: First time Federal Pell Grant recipients are limited to up to 18 semesters of scheduled awards. Awards received will be tracked by the US Department of Education. Students are still required to meet the financial aid SAP standards regardless of whether they have received the maximum number of scheduled Pell Grant awards.

SAP Standards

- **Grade Point Average:** Undergraduate and graduate students are expected to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.0 at Eastern Connecticut State University.
- **Credit Completion Rate:** Undergraduate and graduate students are expected to successfully complete at least 67% of the credits attempted at Eastern Connecticut State University. This will be affected by incompletes, withdrawals, and repetition of credits. Transfer credits will count as both attempted and completed credits.
- **Years of Enrollment at Eastern:** Undergraduate students are required to complete a Bachelors Degree within 6 six years (or the full-time equivalent - 144 credits attempted), although a 4 year timeframe is preferred. Graduate students are expected to complete a Masters Degree within 3 years (or the full-time equivalent - 54 credits attempted). *
- **Credits Earned without Degree Completion:** Undergraduate students are required to have earned a Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Connecticut State University once they have earned 180 credits (includes transfer credits). Graduate students are required to have earned a Masters Degree from Eastern Connecticut State University once they have completed 45 credits (includes transfer credits). **

***Repeated Courses:** All repeated course work affects Financial Aid satisfactory Academic progress calculations. A repeated course along with the original attempt must be counted as attempted credit hours and will be counted toward the student's maximum time allowance.

****Maximum Credit Hours:** Students suspended from financial aid due to attempting credits more than the 150% of the program are not eligible for appeal. A student may receive Financial Aid for attempted credits in their program of study that do not exceed 150 percent of the published credit hours of the student's educational program at the university. If a bachelor's degree requires 120 credits for completion, the student must complete the program with no more than 180 attempted credit hours. This 150 percent credit hour rule is applicable to students who have changed majors, seek a dual major or a second degree

Satisfactory Academic Review Process

After each semester's grades are posted, the Financial Aid and Veteran's Affairs Office reviews the academic records of Financial Aid applicants for the upcoming semester. Students who meet the academic standards required by the policy will not be notified of successfully meeting academic standards.

Financial Aid Warning

The first time a student fails to meet one of Eastern's academic standards at the end of the semester the student will receive a **Warning**. The Financial Aid Office will notify a student of being placed on the status of receiving a warning by email and letter. The student will still be eligible to receive Financial Aid for the next semester. If, at the end of the Financial Aid warning period, the student is meeting the minimum requirements of satisfactory academic progress, the Financial Aid warning is lifted.

Students who fail to make satisfactory academic progress after the Financial Aid warning semester will be ineligible for Financial Aid. You may **appeal** this status. If your appeal is approved, you will be placed on **Probation** for one term and your Financial Aid will be reinstated. Should your appeal be denied, your Financial Aid will be suspended for the next term.

Financial Aid Probation

To be on Financial Aid Probation you would have to successfully appeal not making Satisfactory Academic Progress after a Financial Aid Warning term.

The student will be limited to receiving Financial Aid for only the next semester. The Financial Aid Office will notify a student of being placed on the status of probation by email and letter. The student may be required to fulfill specific terms and conditions as established by an Academic Plan which could include taking certain courses, having a reduced course load, earning a certain number of credits and achieving a certain grade point average. At the end of the Financial Aid probation period the student must meet the requirements of Eastern's Satisfactory Academic Policy or the requirements of the academic plan, otherwise the student will lose eligibility for Financial Aid at Eastern.

SAP Appeal

If extenuating circumstances exist which caused a student to fail to meet one of the above academic standards, a written appeal may be submitted. Examples of extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to: unexpected death or major hospitalization of an immediate family member, extended hospitalization or medical condition of student, house fire victim of a violent crime. The appeal should address and document these extenuating circumstances **and** include:

- Why you failed to make Satisfactory Academic Progress
- What has changed that will allow you to make Satisfactory Academic Progress during your next academic term?

The appeal form is available on the Financial Aid Website. The appeal form must be turned into the financial aid office within thirty days of the notification that you are not meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress. Appeals must include supporting documentation. Incomplete appeals or those missing adequate documentation are typically denied.

Financial Aid Suspension

If the Financial Aid office determines that you have not met the Minimum Standard requirements to receive Financial Aid, and your appeal is denied you will not be eligible to receive aid for the next semester.

Questions regarding the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy requirements and/or process should be directed the Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs Office via email at financialaid@easternct.edu and/or by calling (860) 465-5205. Members of the Client Services staff are available to assist Monday - Friday from 8:00am - 5:00pm