

FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

In order to receive federal, state or institutional financial aid, students must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress toward the attainment of a degree. At William Paterson University, the satisfactory academic progress is determined annually at the time the student applies for financial aid.

All financial aid applicants are subject to the standards outlined here regardless if aid was received or not in the past. These standards have been developed in accordance with regulations that govern financial aid programs.

There are three distinct dimensions to the satisfactory academic progress standards: completing the degree requirements within an established timeframe, maintaining the minimum required grade point average (GPA), and attaining a completion rate. These standards also include an opportunity to appeal the denial of financial aid if the student has faced special circumstances which prevented the student from attaining the minimum standards described in this document. Students who have been deemed ineligible in a prior year, but who have since improved their performance, are encouraged to submit an appeal for the reinstatement of their aid; the Satisfactory Academic Appeals Committee will not automatically reinstate a student's aid. It is of the utmost importance to recognize that this policy is different from the University standards of academic performance.



PART I: Program Guidelines

A. Credits required

The minimum number of credit hours needed to complete an undergraduate program is 128 (approximately). A student is eligible to receive funding up to 192 attempted credit hours. Some programs limit funding on a semester basis. *Students that attempt/complete only the minimum amount of credit hours required will run out of eligibility for certain state financial aid programs prior to completing their degree.*

Each year, a student's progress will be measured by comparing the number of attempted credit hours with the credit hours earned. This includes any course for which the student has remained enrolled past the Drop/Add period. A student must complete sixty seven percent (67%) of cumulative credits attempted after attempting 24 credits to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

B. Grade point average required

Undergraduate students must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA after attempting 48 credits. The University requires at least a 2.0 GPA for graduation.

PART II: General Information

A. Withdrawal from courses

WD (Withdrawn officially)

Credits remain in the total number of attempted hours but are not added to the earned credits. This may have a negative effect on the total number of earned credits needed per year. The GPA is not affected by these grades.

B. Incomplete courses

INC (Incomplete)

Courses will be counted when determining the number of credits attempted. When a passing

grade is received, the grade will be added to the number of credits earned.

C. Repeated courses

These courses are counted each time the course is taken and will be included in the total number of attempted hours. When a course is completed, the credits are added to the total number of earned credits hours.

D. Transfer credits

Transfer credits, accepted by the University, will be added to the attempted/earned hours in order to arrive at the maximum number of credits a student may attempt and earn.

E. Failing Grades

These grades may have a serious negative impact on the student's academic record: F (Failing), N (Unacceptable, must repeat) and M (Missing, no grade submitted)

PART III: Graduate Program Guidelines

A. Credit and GPA requirement

Graduate students must complete seventy percent (70%) of their attempted credits and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA after attempting 12 or more credits.

PART IV: Appeal Procedures

Students identified as not making progress toward the degree will receive correspondence at their campus e-mail address upon completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students have the right to appeal the decision by submitting an online appeal to the Financial Aid Office. Generally, the Satisfactory Academic Appeals Committee will consider appeals that involve circumstances beyond the student's control that have had an impact upon the student's academic performance.

