

Satisfactory Academic Progress for Federal Financial Aid Eligibility September 2018

Applicability of Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

Federal regulations require students who receive federal financial aid to maintain satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of their educational programs.

Federal financial aid includes:

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

Students who do not maintain satisfactory academic progress ultimately may become ineligible to receive federal financial aid. Consequently, it is important for students to work with an advisor to make appropriate course selections and to access academic support services as needed to complete attempted credits successfully.

Measurement of Satisfactory Academic Progress

Academic progress is measured by the number of academic credits attempted, number of academic credits earned, and cumulative grade point average achieved. Students must receive satisfactory grades in at least two-thirds of the credits for which they have enrolled and must be on track to complete their program of study within 150% of the program length as measured by the credits required to earn the applicable degree or certificate.

Example:

A two-year program requiring 60 credits must be completed with no more than 90 credits attempted for federal financial aid eligibility to continue throughout the course of study.

For students enrolled in an associate degree program, satisfactory academic progress is evaluated once a year at the end of the spring semester. For students enrolled in certificate programs of one year or less and for students currently on a Satisfactory Academic Program Course and Success Plan, your progress is reviewed each semester or payment period as appropriate to the duration of the program. Returning students, who were not enrolled for the spring evaluation, are reviewed for academic progress when Onondaga Community College receives their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The table below outlines the credits attempted, percent of credits accumulated annually, and

minimum cumulative grade point average student must achieve to maintain satisfactory academic progress for federal financial aid purposes. Students who do not meet the standards will be placed on **financial aid ineligible status** and lose eligibility for financial aid until an appeal is granted or satisfactory academic progress is re-established.

Qualitative and Quantitative Standards

As illustrated in the table below, there are both qualitative and quantitative standards for federal financial aid satisfactory academic progress. The qualitative standard pertains to the minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) based on the total number of credits attempted. The quantitative standard is represented by the percentage of credits earned. Students must achieve both the qualitative and quantitative standards as outlined to maintain satisfactory academic progress:

Cumulative Credits Percent of Credits Earned Minimum Cumulative

| Cumulative Credits Attempted | Percent of Credits Earned | Minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 12-23 | 66.6% | 1.50 |
| 24-35 | 66.6% | 1.75 |
| 36-44 | 66.6% | 1.80 |
| 45+ | 66.6% | 2.00 |

All course withdrawals, incompletes, repeated courses, course audits, concurrent enrollment courses, and transfer credits applicable to a student's program, and all credits attempted by students who change their programs of study are counted as attempted credits, whether or not the student received financial aid at the time of the course attempt. Developmental courses are excluded from the calculation of attempted credits. Students may receive federal financial aid for a maximum of 30 semester hours (one full academic year) of developmental coursework.

Students who have been academically dismissed from the College are ineligible to receive federal financial aid during the period of dismissal, regardless of their satisfactory academic progress calculation.

Students will be notified via electronic mail sent to their Onondaga Community College email account of unsatisfactory academic progress and the process and timeline for submitting an appeal.

Consequences of Unsatisfactory Academic Progress

Students evaluated each spring or payment period who have earned fewer than two-thirds of the credits attempted, and/or students who have a cumulative grade point average below the standard stated in the table above, will be placed on financial **aid ineligible status** for one semester (or payment period for students enrolled in programs of a year or less in duration) and referred for additional academic support. Students on financial aid ineligible status **are not** eligible for federal financial aid in the next subsequent semester or payment period of enrollment but must attempt and complete six (6) new, **college level (non-remedial)** credits with a 2.0 GPA (“C” grade) in each course to maintain future federal financial aid eligibility. Students who attempt more than six credits while on financial aid ineligible status are required to complete six, new college level credits with a 2.0 and complete sufficient additional credits with a passing grade to equal two-thirds of the total credits attempted.

Students on financial aid ineligible status who do not complete at least six new college level credits with a 2.0 in the next semester of enrollment will be ineligible to receive federal financial aid in a future semester unless that eligibility is reinstated as described below.

The six new college level credits referenced above include retaking a class previously failed and retaking a class where the grade received was below a 2.0 (“C” grade) when the program requires a minimum of a “C” grade.

Reinstatement of Federal Financial Aid Eligibility

Reinstatement of federal financial aid eligibility may occur in one of two ways: (1.) the student completes a minimum of six (6) new **college level (non-remedial)** credits with a 2.0 GPA (“C” grade) or higher in each class during the same semester in his or her program of study without the benefit of federal financial aid; or (2.) the student submits a successful appeal.

Appeals from a determination of federal financial aid ineligibility due to unsatisfactory academic progress must be made in writing to the Financial Aid Office and must describe the circumstances, including the illness or death of a relative, illness or injury of the student, or other special circumstances, that inhibited the student’s academic progress and how those circumstances have changed so that the student will make satisfactory academic progress in the future. Students on financial aid ineligible status who attempted fewer than six college level credits in the next semester of enrollment should explain the circumstances that required enrollment below six new college level credit hours. Appeals will be considered by the Director of Financial Aid, or his or her designee(s), and confirmed to the student in writing.

Students whose federal financial aid eligibility is reinstated due to approval of an appeal will be placed on a status of **financial aid probation and put on a Satisfactory Academic**

Progress Course and Success Plan for one semester during which time the student will be required to meet either the satisfactory academic progress requirements of the College or the requirements of an academic plan developed by the student and his or her academic advisor to allow the student to make satisfactory academic progress in the future. Students on financial aid probation who do not meet either the satisfactory academic progress requirements of the College or the requirements of the established academic plan in the next subsequent semester of enrollment will become ineligible for federal financial aid.