



FINANCIAL AID SERVICES

Sandel Hall 115 | 700 University Avenue, Monroe, LA 71209

Phone: (318) 342-5320

Email: finaid@ulm.edu | URL: <http://finaid.ulm.edu>

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) denotes a student's successful completion of coursework toward a degree. Federal regulations require the Office of Financial Aid to monitor the progress of each student toward degree completion. Students who fall behind in their coursework (fail classes), fail to achieve minimum standards for grade point average or fail to complete classes in a maximum timeframe, may lose their eligibility for all types of federal, state and university aid administered by the Financial Aid office.

REQUIREMENT FOR MAINTAINING SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS:

To maintain SAP, a student must:

1. Maintain a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for Undergraduate students and a 3.0 for Graduate or Doctoral students. Pharmacy and DPT students must meet academic requirements specified to advance within the professional program. The ULM Financial Aid Office reserves the right to require a student to appeal even if the program allows them to continue in the program.
2. Complete at least 67 percent of all attempted credit hours – This will be reviewed at the end of each semester and the aggregate percentage of coursework attempted and passed must equal 67% or greater at each review. (For example: a student who has attempted a total of 12 credit hours and only earns 8 credit hours has completed 67 percent of attempted credit hours)
3. Complete a degree program in a maximum timeframe of no more than 150 percent of the average length of the program. The maximum number of attempted hours for an undergraduate student is 180 hours. The maximum number of attempted hours for a graduate student will vary depending on program specifications. The maximum number of attempted hours for a doctoral student is 96 hours. The Financial Aid Office reserves the right to question Doctoral students if the amount of dissertation hours attempted is more than the published amount required. Students must appeal 18 hours prior to the maximum to begin being monitored by the Financial Aid Office for a sufficient completion date.

For Pre-Programs, Associate Degree and Undeclared Students- For students working on their first undergraduate degree, you can receive federal aid without having to appeal until you reach 90 hours. Once you reach 72 attempted hours (92 attempted hours for OTA), you will have to complete an appeal with our office to determine future eligibility or declare a major if you are enrolled in a Pre-Program or are Undeclared. If you already have a bachelors degree or higher, you cannot enroll and receive aid for a Pre-Program or an Undeclared major.

For transfer students: The number of transfer hours accepted at the point of admission will be used to calculate the student's remaining eligibility under the 150 percent rule and will be included in the quantitative calculation. Transfer student's admitted term is automatically awarded eligible aid as long as they are admitted into a degree seeking program. Students with a provisional admission status upon their second term will not be eligible to receive aid until that is cleared. Each term that follows falls under our SAP guidelines listed above.

(Readmits and Transfer/Readmit students' eligibility is determined immediately upon admission. These students' aid is determined after being completely admitted and all eligible transcripts received and reviewed. Aid cannot be posted without meeting these criteria upon admission.)



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For second degree students: Second- degree students will be given 150 percent of stated credit hours required for the second-degree program. Once students have obtained a first undergraduate degree, they are not eligible for aid if you return in a Pre-Program or an Undeclared major. You must be a degree seeking student. As of the 21-22 academic year, all second-degree undergraduates and graduates must appeal to receive eligible aid. (*This rule is with the exception of Transfer students during their first term.*)

Withdrawal: A "W" grade which is recorded on the student's transcript will be included as credits attempted and will have an adverse effect on the student's ability to maintain satisfactory academic progress. Students who officially withdraw from the University must make up the deficit hours and are encouraged to attend summer school to remove the deficient hours. The successful completion of a course is defined as receiving one of the following grades: A, B, C or D. Courses with grades of F, I, U and W will not qualify in meeting the minimum standard.

Incomplete (I) grade: An incomplete grade indicates that a student has not finished all course-work required for a grade and is included in the cumulative credits attempted. An incomplete will count toward maximum attempted hours but not as hours passed until a final grade is posted by the Registrar's Office.

Repeated courses: A student who has received a failing grade in a course may repeat the course one time and receive financial aid. On the third attempt of a failed course, financial aid will no longer cover the course. Students (undergraduate and graduate) may only receive federal financial aid for one repetition (repeat) of a previously passed course. Students who have already passed a course with a D or better may only repeat the class one additional time and receive financial aid for that course. On the third attempt of a repeated course, financial aid will no longer cover the course. All repeated courses are included in the total maximum attempted hours for SAP evaluation.

Academic Renewal: The Financial Aid Office is required to evaluate all attempted hours even if the student has applied for academic renewal.

Change of Major: A student may change from one major to another during attendance at the University. Students who change from one major to another are still expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress and complete the coursework within the time frame or hour limitation stated unless an appeal is approved. All attempted hours from a prior major are included in the total maximum attempted hours.

Audited courses: Courses audited are not eligible for financial aid and are not counted as either attempted or earned hours.



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CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING TO MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students receiving federal aid who fail to complete qualitative, and completion rate after each semester will result in the following:

1. **FINANCIAL AID WARNING**

Students who fail to meet SAP requirements at the end of the semester will be placed on **Financial Aid Warning**. Students placed on financial aid warning will not need an appeal; however, failure to make satisfactory academic progress by the end of the financial aid Warning period will result in financial aid suspension. Students who reach maximum time frame do not receive this type of warning term. They will receive a "Close to Maximum Time Frame" warning advising them that they are reaching the point to which they must appeal. **Professional Pharmacy, PT and Graduate level students do not receive the "Close to Maximum Time Frame" warning. These students are evaluated on a case-by-case basis based on program requirements.**

2. **Financial Aid SUSPENSION**

Students who are placed on **Financial Aid Suspension** have the option to appeal for Title IV funding. At the end of the semester, students are notified of financial aid suspension and have the option to submit a typed letter of appeal along with all supporting documentation to the Office of Financial Aid Appeals Committee **by the established deadline**. (See Appeals Procedures). **LATE APPEALS MAY NOT BE REVIEWED BEFORE PAYMENT DEADLINES.**

The committee will review the appeal and supporting documentation to determine if the student's financial aid should be reinstated or remain in suspension.

Appeal Denial

All decisions that are rendered by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee will be **final** and not subject to further review. Students will remain on **Financial Aid Suspension** until he/she is back in good standing.

Appeal Approval

If the SAP appeal committee determines the student is eligible for reinstatement of financial aid, he/she will be considered for aid available at the time of reinstatement and will be placed on **Financial Aid Probation**.

While on Probation each student must pass 100% of the classes they attempt while maintaining a semester 2.0 GPA for Undergraduates and a 3.0 semester GPA for Graduates. These students will typically graduate or be back in good standing after one semester.

Academic Plan (EXT1)

During the **appeal agreement** period, the student will have to complete a financial aid appeal agreement with his/her financial aid counselor and academic advisor before federal aid is reinstated for the **semester**. Upon completion of the appeal agreement, the student will be required to meet all stipulations within the academic plan (2.0+ GPA for undergrad, 3.0+ GPA for grad, with no F, W, or I grade.) **Failure to do so will result in suspension of financial aid until the student is back in good standing.**



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3. Financial Aid Probation (On Appeal)

During the **Financial Aid Probation** period, the student will be **required** to pass all attempted classes. You cannot have a W, I, F or NC for any classes attempted while on probation. **Failure to do so will result in suspension of financial aid until the student is back in good standing.**

Appeal Procedures

Students who fail to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress may appeal the suspension of their student financial aid. Letters of appeal should be based on a mitigating circumstance that negatively impacted the student's ability to meet the minimum required standards. Examples of such circumstance may include, but are not limited to:

- Death or prolonged illness of an immediate family member
- Medical illness by the student that created undue hardship
- Natural disasters beyond the control of the student or other personal or family matters/situations that may have negatively impacted the student's ability to meet the minimum required standards.
- If applicable, documentation that supports any retroactive changes that may have occurred.

Steps in the APPEAL PROCESS:

1. Students must provide a completed SAP Appeal form to the Office of Financial Aid
2. Students must include the following in order to be considered for an appeal review:
 - a. SAP Appeal Form
 - b. A typed statement of circumstance of why satisfactory academic progress was not met. This statement **MUST** include specific information that outlines a mitigated change from the prior semester. The student should give estimated date of graduation or estimated date they will begin their professional program.
 - c. Supporting documentation (proof of grade change, current academic transcript, doctor's statement, death certificate, accident report, etc.)
 - d. Degree plan from academic advisor
3. After the committee review, the student will be notified via Warhawk Email or Banner of the appeal decision.