Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
Policy for Federal Student Aid

Purpose

Federal regulations (Sections 668.16(e), 668.32(f) and 668.34) require that schools monitor the academic progress of each applicant for federal financial assistance and that the school certify that the applicant is making satisfactory academic progress toward earning his/her degree. This determination of progress must be made at least once a year, typically at the end of the Spring semester, and before the Financial Aid Office awards or disburses any federal aid funds for the subsequent semester. Please note that decisions for academic probation and institutional scholarship eligibility are separate from this process.

Qualitative SAP Standards

A. 2.0 cumulative Grade Point Average for undergraduates
B. 3.0 cumulative Grade Point Average for graduate students

Quantitative SAP Standards

Students must have earned at least 66.67% of their attempted course credits to be considered to be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress minimum standards. Students are permitted to receive federal student aid only for an amount of credits up to 150% of the amount of credits it normally takes to complete their degree program (e.g. up to 180 credits for a 120 credit degree). Students are not eligible to receive federal financial assistance for terms beyond this point, even if they did not receive aid for all of terms included in figuring whether they have exceeded 150% of the maximum time allowed to complete their degree requirements. If at any point it becomes impossible for a student to complete their degree within the 150% allowance, their eligibility for federal aid will be revoked for the remainder of the degree, without the possibility of appeal.

SAP is reviewed yearly, after Spring grades are released, except for students on probation, whose statuses are reviewed each semester.

- Transfer credits from other schools may be counted toward SAP standards provided they are included both as attempted and as earned credits.
- Repeated Courses: The New School's academic policies permit students to repeat up to three classes with divisional approval if the student earned less than a B- in those classes. The Office of Financial Aid does not award federal financial assistance to students repeating courses in order to attempt to earn a higher grade. Courses repeated due to an earlier failing grade are eligible for federal student aid if the course is a requirement for the student's degree program.
- Withdrawals: Grades of W are counted as courses attempted and count toward the maximum time frame. Attempted hours are those hours for which students were still officially registered at the conclusion of each semester's Add/Drop period. Withdrawals are counted as attempted hours.
- Audited Courses: Students do not earn any academic credits for audited courses. They do not count in the calculation of "attempted hours."
- Pass/Fail Courses: These hours do count within the total of attempted and earned hours
- Change in Majors: Students who change their majors will normally be expected to complete all degree requirements before reaching 150% of normal program completion.

Reviewing SAP

Students meeting all minimum SAP standards are packaged for the full academic year. Students not meeting all minimum standards are subject to loss of financial aid eligibility or financial aid probation.
Financial Aid Warning

There is a minimal amount of time between the time when final fall grades must be posted and the start of spring semester. There is even less time between when final summer grades may be posted and the start of fall semester. Students incur a financial liability to the university as soon as the semester begins. Therefore, under most circumstances, we believe it would be unfair to retroactively remove a student’s aid once the semester begins. The New School reviews SAP annually, and, therefore, cannot utilize a Financial Aid Warning.

Financial Aid Suspension

Students who are not meeting SAP will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension. Students on Financial Aid Suspension have lost eligibility to participate in federal student aid programs. Such students can regain that eligibility by enrolling at The New School without federal financial assistance, until they regain the minimum qualifying standards for academic progress. Students who have been academically dismissed from the university and are subsequently given permission to re-enroll are not automatically eligible to continue to participate in federal, state, or institutional aid programs. Admissions decisions are totally separate from funding decisions. Students’ previous coursework will still be considered when determining eligibility for aid.

Right to Appeal

Students have the right to appeal any decision of ineligibility to continue to receive financial assistance. Appeals must be filed within 30 days of notification that aid eligibility has been lost. An Appeal must be made in writing to the Office of Financial Aid by completing the Satisfactory Academic Progress Request for Review and submitting it along with all required statements and documentation. The appeal may not be based upon your need for the assistance OR your lack of knowledge that your assistance was in jeopardy. An appeal would normally be based upon some unusual situation or condition which prevented you from passing more of your courses, or which necessitated that you withdraw from classes. Examples of possible situations include documented serious illness, severe injury, or death of a family member. The student must also demonstrate that the conditions that caused the student to fall below SAP requirements can reasonably be expected not to be an issue for subsequent semesters.

If the student does not have grounds for an appeal, or if the appeal is denied, the student will remain on Financial Aid Suspension but may still be able to regain eligibility for future semesters. This is done by enrolling at The New School at your own expense -- without federal financial assistance -- and regaining the Qualitative and Quantitative standards listed above.

Appeal Approval Conditions

Appeals can only be approved if the Financial Aid Appeals Committee determines that the student should be able to meet the university’s satisfactory academic progress after a probationary period. If an appeal is granted: Students whose appeals are granted will be placed on financial aid probation and will receive aid on a conditional basis. The Financial Aid Appeals Committee will review the student’s record at the end of the semester to determine their status for the following semester. Students who fail to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards will not be eligible to submit a subsequent appeal unless there are new, applicable circumstances.

Financial Aid Probation

Probation periods will generally be granted for one semester. The student will remain eligible for financial aid and will continue to receive financial assistance during the approved probationary semester. Students who meet the SAP standard at the end of their probationary semester will be restored to Satisfactory Academic Progress status and continue to receive aid. Students who do not meet the SAP requirements at the end of the probationary period will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension.

In some cases it may not be possible to regain SAP in one probationary semester. If the circumstances warrant, some appeals may result in an extended probationary period, in which the student will be put on a long-term SAP Academic Plan. The specific criteria of the SAP Academic Plan will be communicated to the student, including the academic requirements and duration of the plan. The student will be required to acknowledge and accept the details of their SAP Academic Plan in order to be placed on probation and receive federal aid. Students not making SAP who have an established SAP Academic Plan will be packaged with financial aid one semester at a time, pending a review of their progress after each term. If a student on an SAP Academic Plan has circumstances that may affect their ability to meet the requirements, that student should contact the Office of Financial Aid immediately when the situation becomes apparent. Subsequent appeals for students not meeting the requirements of their SAP Academic Plan will not be accepted.