

Tulane University Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy (as of February 2013)

Students receiving Federal student financial aid must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at Tulane in order to remain eligible for Federal aid consideration. All students who receive federal financial aid are expected to complete a minimum number of credit hours and maintain a minimum grade point average each semester as demonstration that they are making satisfactory academic progress. The Financial Aid Office evaluates SAP after the completion of each semester (Fall, Spring, and/or Summer). Federal regulations require that the standards applied to students receiving financial aid also apply during periods when a student is not receiving federal financial aid. **All semesters of enrollment must be considered in SAP (even summer, and even when a student is not receiving federal financial aid).**

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) tests three components:

1. A qualitative component: grade point average and/or academic standing
2. An incremental quantitative component: completion rate of credit hours earned versus attempted
3. An overall quantitative component: maximum time for the completion of a student's academic program

Evaluation Criteria

Courses with grades of "W" (withdrawn), "I" (incomplete), "WF" (withdrawn with failure), "UW" (unofficial withdrawal), "U" (unsatisfactory), "XX" (ungraded), and/or "F" (failed) are counted as courses attempted but not earned and count toward the maximum time frame. Any courses dropped after the published "Last Day to Register/Add" deadline (as per the Tulane Registrar's academic calendar) are also counted as per federal regulation as courses attempted during the semester. Transfer credit hours (accepted for the student's academic program or degree) are counted as credit hours attempted when measuring the maximum time frame to complete the degree or certificate program and establishing benchmark points for the qualitative standard, but do not impact the grade point average tested. When a student commences enrollment and yet earns zero credit hours (including cases where the Tulane Financial Aid Office is able to identify that attempted hours have been removed after the commencement of the semester from the student's academic transcript), the student will be identified as having attempted hours contained in the semester.

Guidelines for repeated coursework, if allowed, remedial coursework, if required, and/or English as a Second Language (ESL) coursework, if offered, are specified in the catalog of each academic division. Satisfactory Academic Progress status will include repeated, remedial, and ESL coursework, unless determined otherwise by the Tulane Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee. Courses graded solely on a Pass/Fail basis that are accepted toward the academic program are included when measuring academic progress. Audited courses count as unearned credit hours in the evaluation of the qualitative and quantitative standards. Both qualitative and quantitative standards begin anew for students switching academic levels (such as seeking a graduate or professional degree after completing an undergraduate degree). Dissertation, dissertation research, and practicum courses which are recognized by Tulane as being "full-time" status are counted as enrollment equivalent of a nine-credit hour course.

The Tulane Financial Aid Office will often attempt to automatically adjust a student's Satisfactory Academic Progress status when grades are changed or finally reported, however re-evaluation adjustments may not always occur automatically and therefore students should make a special request to the Tulane Financial Aid Office for a re-evaluation of their SAP when there is a change or submission of grades. In such cases, grades must be reflected on Tulane's student records system prior to a review of a student's status. For any grade change (for example, a prior grade of "I" incomplete or "XX" ungraded that has now been assigned a traditional letter grade), a student is responsible for notifying the Tulane Financial Aid Office of such a change and requesting a review of their Satisfactory Academic Progress evaluation. Note that such a review is not considered an appeal, and may not always result in eligibility for federal student aid (for example, if a processing deadline has passed).

Three SAP Standards

1. Qualitative Grade Point Average and Academic Standing:

Students academically dismissed from their academic program are automatically recognized as failing to meet Tulane's Satisfactory Academic Progress standards and are no longer recognized as pursuing a credential eligible for financial aid. A GPA is not calculated for the MD program, and a null or zero GPA for an MD student is acceptable. Otherwise, as a student progresses through their academic program, his or her cumulative GPA must meet the following benchmarks:

- If aggregate attempted and transferred credit hours is less than 30, and the midpoint of the academic program has not yet been reached, then the cumulative GPA must be at least 1.75;
- If aggregate attempted and transferred credit hours is greater than 30 and less than 48, and the midpoint of the academic program has not yet been reached, then the cumulative GPA must be at least 1.85;
- If aggregate attempted and transferred credit hours is 48 or more (or the midpoint of the academic program has been reached), then the cumulative GPA must be at least 2.00. A student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) must be at least 2.00 (or the equivalent) at the midpoint of their academic program. The midpoint of an academic program is defined as 48 credit hours OR one-half of the

necessary completed credit hours as stipulated in the catalog of the respective academic division, whichever is less. Every attempted and transferred credit hour counts towards the midpoint measurement.

2. Quantitative Completion Rate:

A student must successfully earn at least two-thirds of attempted credit hours overall; in addition, a student who enrolled must earn more than zero hours for a semester which contains attempted hours (or contained hours identified as having been attempted).

3. Quantitative Maximum Time Frame:

A student's maximum time frame for completion of their academic program must not exceed 150% of the primary program length specified in the catalog of each academic division. This means that a student's attempted and transferred credit hours cannot exceed 150% of the credit hours necessary for completion of their primary degree or certificate. The maximum time frame is not increased for dual-degree or combined degree candidates, but rather is always based on the program length associated with a student's primary academic program (however, a student may appeal SAP suspension based on their pursuing dual-degree or combined degrees).

Automatic Warning Semester

Students who fail to meet one or more of the requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress will be notified through the Tulane University Gibson Online student self-service portal and allowed one automatic Warning Semester associated with their next semester of enrollment to restore their satisfactory academic progress standing unless they have been academically dismissed. During the Warning Semester a student will be awarded Federal financial aid for which they have applied and are otherwise eligible. A student is not allowed to receive consecutive Warning Semesters of Federal aid. A Warning Semester assignment is not contingent on the student's application for federal student aid.

Appeal for Probationary Semester*

Students who fail to meet one or more of the requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at the conclusion of their Warning Semester are considered to be in a SAP suspension status, under which Federal student aid eligibility is lost. A student who is denied Federal aid because of a failure to meet SAP standards after the Warning Semester has concluded may appeal this determination to the Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee of the Financial Aid Office by completing a Satisfactory Academic Progress Suspension Appeal Form.* An appeal must be based on significant mitigating circumstances that seriously impacted academic performance (for example, serious illness or injury of the student, or death of a relative). In the SAP Appeal, a student is expected to demonstrate an understanding of what SAP measure/s were failed and what has changed that will allow the student to meet SAP at the next SAP evaluation. Please note that merely filing a SAP appeal does NOT guarantee continued eligibility for Federal aid, as an appeal may be denied.

If an appeal for a probationary semester is denied by the Committee, the student will be notified** and the decision is final for that semester. The student may re-establish eligibility to be considered for federal aid for a subsequent semester by taking action that brings him or her into compliance with the qualitative and quantitative components of Tulane's SAP standard. Subsequent appeals will be automatically denied until the student has earned at least six more Tulane GPA/quality hours than the total earned when the prior SAP Appeal was denied by the Committee.

If a student's appeal is approved by the Committee, the student will be notified** and given a probationary semester. For the probationary semester, the student will be considered academically eligible for federal aid for which the student has applied and is otherwise eligible.

Once a probationary semester has concluded, the student may re-establish eligibility to be considered for federal aid for their next semester of enrollment ONLY by either 1) taking action that brings him or her into compliance with the qualitative and quantitative components of Tulane's SAP standard OR 2) demonstrating in a timely fashion the meeting of the specific academic plan and standards for a Probationary Semester as established by the Appeals Committee.

A student who has met neither of the above conditions may appeal the determination of SAP suspension to the Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee, but such an appeal will be automatically denied until the student has earned at least six more Tulane GPA/quality hours than the total earned by the conclusion of the probationary semester.*

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**In some cases, a SAP appeal will be denied automatically without going to the SAP Appeal Committee. For example, a SAP appeal must be completed by the deadline; otherwise, the appeal will be automatically denied. The deadline for submission of a SAP appeal to the student's Tulane Financial Aid Office is by 5PM on the Tulane Registrar's published "last day for 25% tuition refund" date for the specific semester with which the appeal is associated. Even a timely SAP appeal for academic dismissal will be automatically denied unless documentation of a reversal of the academic dismissal is provided.*

***Notification of the Committee's decision should take place within ten business days of the beginning of the semester for which appeal is made, or ten business days from the receipt of the appeal in the Tulane University Financial Aid Office, whichever is later.*