

JALC Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy Procedures

Federal regulations require that a student receiving federal financial aid make satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the standards set by the College and the federal government. These limitations include all terms of enrollment, whether or not aid was awarded or received. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards also apply to state aid. Progress is measured throughout the academic program by the student's cumulative grade point average (Qualitative) and by credits earned as a percentage of those attempted (Quantitative or Pace of Completion). In addition, students must complete their programs of study before attempting 150% of the credits required to complete the program. The College Financial Aid Office will evaluate satisfactory academic progress after grades are posted for every term, starting with their first term of enrollment. Some certificate programs (i.e., shorter than 16 credits in total length) are ineligible for student financial aid, but those credits will be counted toward all SAP requirements (GPA, Completion Rate, Maximum Timeframe, and Developmental Maximum) if the student later enrolls in an eligible program.

I. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID STATUS

A. Financial Aid Good Standing – Students who are meeting all aspects of the satisfactory academic progress policy.

B. Financial Aid Warning Status – Students who fail to meet satisfactory academic progress for the first time (excluding students who have already attempted 150% of the credits required for their programs of study) will be automatically placed in a Warning Status for one (1) term and are expected to meet SAP requirements by the end of that term. Students who fail to meet satisfactory academic progress requirements at the end of the warning status term will be placed on financial aid Ineligible status. However, with a successful SAP appeal, those students will be placed on financial aid probation and will retain financial aid eligibility.

C. Financial Aid Probation Status – Students who have successfully appealed financial aid Ineligible Status are placed in Probation Status. Students in Probation Status are eligible to receive financial aid for one (1) semester, after which they MUST be in Good Standing or meeting the requirements of an academic progress plan. Any student who does not follow the Academic Plan and any additional requirements state in writing by the Appeal Committee will be placed on Ineligible status. (See “IV. Appeals” for additional information.)

D. Financial Aid Ineligible Status – Students who do not meet the credit progression schedule and/or the cumulative grade point average standard, or who fail to meet the requirements of their pre-approved academic progress plan, will be placed in Ineligible Status. Students in Ineligible Status are not eligible to receive financial aid.

E. Reinstatement- Students may regain satisfactory academic progress after they have enrolled in, paid for, and completed enough courses to bring their cumulative GPA up to at least 2.0 and their cumulative completion rate up to at least 67%.

Students who have been ineligible for academic reasons and are attempting reinstatement should request in writing that they be reinstated after the semester in which reinstatement conditions have been met. The Financial Aid Office is not responsible for automatically reinstating a student who may have met the reinstatement conditions. Students will not be granted reinstatement if the maximum time frame to complete a program has been exceeded.

Financial aid eligibility for students who have exceeded the maximum time frame can be reinstated only if an appeal for reevaluation of maximum time frame has been submitted and approved.

F. Academic Suspension – Academic requirements for avoiding warning status and staying in school differ from financial aid requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress. Academic status will be noted on registration records; financial aid status will be noted on financial aid pages. Any student suspended from the College for academic or behavioral reasons is automatically ineligible for financial aid.

II. EVALUATING PROGRESS

A. Quantitative Standards or Pace of Completion

Completion Rate (67% Rule): Students must, at a minimum, receive satisfactory grades in 67% of cumulative credits attempted. This calculation is performed by dividing the cumulative total number of successfully completed credits by the cumulative total number of credits attempted. All credits attempted at the College (except audits, which must be entered as such by the class census date) are included. All credits accepted in transfer count as both attempted and successfully completed credits. This evaluation will be made prior to aid being awarded and after grades are posted at the end of each semester a student is enrolled at the College. Credits with satisfactory grades at the College are those for which a grade of A, B, C, D, S, or P is earned.

B. Maximum Hours (150% Rule): In order to continue receiving financial aid, a student must complete his/her program of study before attempting 150% of the credits required for that program. Developmental course work are included in this calculation. Attempted credits from all enrollment periods at the College plus all accepted transfer credits are counted; whether or not the student received financial aid for those terms is of no consequence. Students have 93 attempted hours in which to complete a degree program and 45 attempted hours for a one year or less certificate program. Students who have received a bachelor's degree are also considered to have exceeded the maximum time frame for completion at John A. Logan College.

B.1. Transfer Students: Credits officially accepted in transfer will be counted in determining the maximum number of allowable semester credit hours for financial aid eligibility.

B.2. Second Degree Students: Credits earned from a first degree or certificate must be counted if the student changes programs or attempts a second degree or certificate. Depending on the circumstances, an appeal might be warranted.

B.3. Developmental Studies: Developmental courses are considered when evaluating SAP requirements. Students may receive financial aid for a maximum of 30 semester hours of Developmental Studies courses as long as the courses are required as a result of placement testing, the student is in an eligible program of study, and SAP requirements continue to be met.

Additional Considerations for Quantitative or Pace of Completion Standards

- Withdrawals (W grades) that are recorded on the student's permanent academic transcript will be included as credits attempted and will have an adverse effect on the student's ability to meet the requirements of the completion rate for financial aid.
- Incomplete Grades: Courses that are assigned an incomplete grade are included in cumulative credits attempted. These cannot be used as credits earned in the progress standard until a successful grade is assigned.

- Repeated courses enable the student to achieve a higher cumulative grade point average. Students can repeat courses with financial aid until successfully completed but repeating courses adversely affects the student's ability to meet completion rate requirements. Financial aid can be considered for successfully completed classes that are repeated to achieve a higher grade but for only one additional attempt. Only the latest attempt will count toward the cumulative grade point average.

C. Qualitative Standards

Cumulative GPA Requirements (GPA Rule): In order to remain eligible for financial aid consideration, students must meet minimum cumulative grade point average requirements. All courses with grades of A, B, C, D, and E are included in this calculation. Transfer credits are excluded.

III. REGAINING ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL AID

Students who do not meet the credit progression requirements (Quantitative or Pace of Completion) and/or cumulative grade point average requirements (Qualitative) will be immediately ineligible for financial aid. Removal from financial aid does not prevent students from enrolling without financial aid if they are otherwise eligible to continue their enrollment.

Unless extenuating circumstances exist and an appeal is granted (see "IV. Appeals" for additional information), a student in financial aid ineligible status should expect to continue classes at his or her own expense until satisfactory academic progress requirements are again met.

Students who fail to meet these Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards and who choose to enroll without benefit of student financial aid may request a review of their academic records after any term in which they are enrolled without the receipt of financial aid to determine whether they have again met satisfactory academic progress standards. If the standards are met, eligibility is regained for subsequent terms of enrollment in the academic year. Students should contact the Financial Aid Office for assistance in appealing any element of this policy or to determine how to regain eligibility for financial aid.

IV. APPEALS

Under certain circumstances, students who fail to meet SAP standards and lose eligibility for financial aid can appeal the financial aid ineligibility status. Students must clearly state what caused the ineligible status and must also clearly indicate what has changed that will now allow the student to succeed. Appeals are encouraged if:

- Extenuating circumstances exist (i.e., student's serious illness or accident; death, accident or serious illness in the immediate family; other mitigating circumstances), or
- The student has successfully completed one degree and is attempting another.

Students appealing an ineligible status must:

- Complete the College's SAP Appeal Form in entirety online and submit. The Financial Aid Appeal Form is available on the college's website at: <https://www.jalc.edu/financial-aid/appeal-form>