Satisfactory Academic Progress Guidelines for Financial Aid

St. Louis Community College students receiving federal financial aid are required to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards, according to federal and state laws and regulations. Students who do not meet these standards are not eligible to receive certain types of financial aid. St. Louis Community College shall make these standards applicable to all federal and state programs for the purpose of maintaining a consistent and reasonable financial aid policy. This policy does not override any other policy that may have more stringent requirements for renewal set by the governing body for that award.

Academic records are reviewed for all students receiving financial aid or being considered for financial aid from the following sources:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
- Missouri A+ Scholarship
- Access Missouri Grant
- Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan
- Veterans Benefits
- Federal Work-Study Program
- BOT Scholarships and Fee Waivers
- Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program (Subsidized and Unsubsidized)
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The review of a student's SAP status is based on the entire academic record, even if the student did not receive financial aid for previous semesters of enrollment. This includes all transfer credit hours being accepted by the College and Developmental courses taken at STLCC.

SAP statuses are calculated after final grades are posted. A student who received federal aid in that semester will be sent a notice to his/her student email account if they did not meet the SAP requirements. Students whose aid is being suspended will be sent a letter by U.S. mail. Financial aid awards for subsequent semesters will be adjusted accordingly.

A student is required to meet the following criteria to have an eligible SAP status:

- A student must maintain academic standing, derived from grades, that is consistent with graduation requirements at the College. CGPA 2.0
- A student must complete a reasonable number of credit hours toward a degree each academic year for STLCC it is 66.67%
- A maximum time frame of 150 percent of the required hours for the degree is met. A student seeking a degree requiring 64 credit hours may attempt a total of 96 hours.
Financial Aid Warning

Students who fail to meet all parts of the satisfactory academic progress policy will result in financial aid warning and will be given a semester of warning. Students may continue to receive assistance for one semester, but must meet all parts of the satisfactory academic progress policy by the end of the warning semester.

Financial Aid Suspension

Students who fail to meet the minimum required GPA or minimum completion ratio during the semester(s) following notification of warning will result in financial aid suspension. Students who have been placed on suspension are not eligible to receive most types of financial assistance. This includes all federal, state aid and most institutional aid.

Repeated Courses

Students may receive most financial aid programs for repeating courses; however, if retaking a previously passed course, financial aid can only be used for one repeat of the course. Any courses that are repeated will be used in the calculation of a student's Satisfactory Academic Progress status. A grade earned in a repeated course replaces the previously earned grade, if higher; this may positively affect CGPA. The Missouri A+ Scholarship will not pay for a course more than one time.

Developmental Courses

A student may receive financial aid for up to 30 hours Developmental course if the course is required for placement into a course that is required for a student's declared degree at St. Louis Community College. These courses are counted toward the total number of hours attempted.

Appeal Process:

Students who are placed on financial assistance suspension due to extenuating circumstances may appeal their suspension through the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. An appeal letter with supporting documentation (an Academic Plan is strongly encouraged) must be filed with the Financial Aid office and forwarded to the committee for review. Appeals will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Committee will consist of representation from all campus locations. Students will be notified in writing of the results of the appeal.

Students whose financial assistance has been reinstated as a result of an appeal will be granted the status of "Probation." Their progress will then be monitored on a term basis rather than a cumulative basis. A student who fails to meet the term requirements after being reinstated will be
ineligible for any future financial assistance until his/her cumulative grade point average is a minimum 2.0 and their cumulative completion ratio is 67%. Additional appeals will not be considered. Students may continue to attend at their own expense.

My Academic Plan MAP:

Students are encouraged to make an appointment with an Academic Advisor and develop an academic plan. This plan will allow students the opportunity to see how and when they can be reinstated for financial aid. Students will submit this with their original appeal letter. Students will then be allowed to enroll in only those courses that are part of established academic plan. Academic plans will be reviewed at the end of each semester; students will also be required to maintain a term grade point average of at least 2.0 or a term completion ratio of 100% for each future term of enrollment. If they have maintain all of the requirements in the plan then they are given another semester of probation.

Reinstatement

Students can regain eligibility by bringing themselves back into compliance with the required cumulative GPA, and the required 67 percent completion ratio out of all hours attempted at STLCC and hours accepted from transferring institutions.