

# University of California, San Diego - Financial Aid Office

## Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards For Financial Aid Eligibility

### I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The U.S. Department of Education requires that in order to receive student financial aid under the programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act, a student must be maintaining satisfactory progress in their course of study she or he is pursuing according to the standards and practices of the institution in which she or he is enrolled. The Title IV programs administered by the University are: Federal Pell Grants, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study, Federal Direct Loans (Subsidized and/or Unsubsidized) and Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans. These standards also apply to the Cal Grant programs and University need-based aid.

Following the final grade processing for the spring quarter, those students who are not meeting the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards will be notified of their possible ineligibility to receive further financial aid for the following academic year. The following Satisfactory Academic Progress standards for UCSD undergraduate financial aid eligibility must be met during the current academic year and (including) the following summer in order to receive Title IV, University and State need-based financial aid for the following academic year.

### II. SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS STANDARDS FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

- A) **Unit Standards:** Students must complete and receive workload credit (NR, NP, I, F, W, IP grades excluded) of 36 units during the academic year and the summer following. **Full-time current year aid** is contingent on a minimum enrollment of 12 units each quarter. Students are generally not eligible for current year aid for quarters in which they are enrolled for less than 6 units, with the exception of some Pell Grant awards.
- B) **Grade Standards:** Students must maintain a minimum cumulative UC grade point average of 2.0. **NOTE:** Our SAP procedures include a review of your cumulative UC GPA prior to the start of the following Fall Quarter which includes UCSD summer session grades. Although your GPA may have met the SAP standards of 2.0 at the end of the academic year, if your cumulative UC GPA falls below the standards at the end of summer session, your financial aid eligibility status for the following year will be affected.
- C) **Pace:** Students must progress towards their educational degree to ensure completion of the program within the maximum timeframe. Pace is measured annually prior to the start of the following Fall Quarter and includes UCSD summer session courses. A student's pace is calculated by dividing the cumulative number of courses successfully completed (NR, NP, I, F, W, IP grades excluded) by the cumulative number of courses attempted. The resulting pace percentage must be equal to or greater than the required pace percentage by grade level: Freshman (0-44 units) 30%; Sophomore (45 – 89 units) 50%; Junior & Senior (90+ units) 66%. For Readmitted students, the required pace percentage is 50% for the year readmitted. If you do not meet the pace requirement and you feel your situation is exceptional, please refer to the Financial Aid Office for a review and possible appeal.
- D) **Duration Limits:** There are limits on the number of quarters of attendance during which students may be eligible for aid. These limits apply whether or not the student received aid or withdrew after the deadline to add classes (typically the end of 2nd week) and are based on a reasonable timeframe to complete a degree. If your situation is exceptional for going beyond these limits, please refer to the Financial Aid Office for a review of your quarters of duration and possible appeal.
- 1) **First 15 quarters:** During the first 15 quarters of attendance, students are eligible for "All Aid" funding - i.e., all types of aid including UCSD campus-based aid (grants, work-study, Federal Perkins/University loans and scholarships) and the Federal Direct (Subsidized and/or Unsubsidized) loan, Federal Direct Parent PLUS loan and Federal Pell Grant. The Cal Grant has its own limits of the first 4 years of attendance unless the student is in a mandatory five year program as determined by the university.
  - 2) **16th, 17th, and 18th quarters:** Students are only eligible for "Limited Aid" funding – i.e., the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Direct (Subsidized and/or Unsubsidized) and Federal Direct PLUS loans.
  - 3) Students admitted as transfers to UCSD from another college are assumed to have entered with the equivalent of two years of duration (i.e. six quarters toward the 15/18 quarter duration limits).

### III. SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS STANDARDS FOR APPROVED PART-TIME STUDENTS

**PLEASE NOTE:** All students approved for part-time study will be given a reduced budget because their registration/tuition costs are reduced. In addition, certain aid programs may also be reduced due to the reduction in fees or based on the number of enrolled units, whether or not the student is approved for part-time study.

- A) **Unit Standards:** Students must complete and receive workload credit (NR, NP, I, F, W, IP grades excluded) of 18 units during the academic year and the following summer. For students not attending the following summer, this will equate to a minimum average of 6 units (see section IV below) per quarter of approved part-time status.  
Note: Students must enroll in 6 units each quarter to generally be eligible to receive aid for that quarter, with exception of some Pell Grant awards.
- B) **Grade Standards:** Students must maintain a minimum cumulative UC grade point average of 2.0.
- C) **Duration Limits:** Two quarters of approved part-time enrollment will equate to one quarter of full-time duration limits (see II. D. above).

### IV. ADDITIONAL SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS INFORMATION

- A) Units taken at another college or UCSD Extension concurrent with enrollment at UCSD are not counted toward the number of units required for Satisfactory Academic Progress and are not considered in determining current year aid eligibility.
- B) Repeated courses will count as units completed if the student receives university credit for those courses and will also be counted as workload units in determining current year aid eligibility. If students are repeating courses for classes which they have already passed, the courses may be repeated only once.
- C) Remedial courses in which a student does not receive university credit will not count toward units completed for Satisfactory Academic Progress. Special exceptions have been made for Math 103, Math 140, and SDCC1, which will count toward workload credit and toward Satisfactory Academic Progress per UCSD Academic Senate regulations.
- D) Students who withdraw for the quarter after the deadline to add classes (typically the end of 2nd week) are considered enrolled for the quarter and are still required to meet the units standard, addressed in Section II and III, prior to the following fall quarter. Students who withdraw for the quarter by the deadline to add classes are not required to complete the units and the quarter would not be counted in determining financial aid duration eligibility.
- E) Students enrolled through the Employee-Student Program will be considered part-time students and will be required to meet Satisfactory Academic

Progress standards for approved part-time students (see section III).

- F) Students who participate in the UC Education Abroad Program are considered to have maintained Satisfactory Academic Progress standards during the period of their study abroad in conjunction with the academic standards required for admission into the program.

## V. SECOND BACHELOR'S DEGREE, LIMITED STATUS, CONCURRENTLY ENROLLED, SUMMER SESSION AND EXTENSION STUDENTS

- A) Students pursuing a second bachelor's degree are eligible for up to three years (nine quarters) of Federal Direct Loans (Subsidized and/or Unsubsidized) and/or Federal Direct PLUS loans for parents. The 12 unit per quarter standard and the 2.0 cumulative UCSD grade point average standards also apply to second bachelor's degree students.
- B) Limited Status (non-degree/non-certificate) students are only eligible for the Federal Direct Loan and/or Federal Direct PLUS loans for parents provided they are pursuing a course of study necessary for enrollment in a degree or certificate program. This eligibility is limited to one academic year. Contact the Financial Aid Office for documentation requirements.
- NOTE: Concurrently enrolled and Extension students are not eligible for funding of any kind at UCSD.

## VI. FINANCIAL AID INELIGIBILITY

**New Federal changes regarding Financial Aid Ineligibility:** Effective July 1, 2011, students who fail to meet SAP standards prior to the start of the following Fall Quarter (which includes UCSD Summer Session and transferable units from other colleges other than UCSD) will be ineligible for further financial aid.

**One Time Transition Year for 2011-12:** A ONE-TIME ONLY cross-over transitional probationary year will be granted for students who have not previously used a financial aid probationary year. This only applies for the 2011-12 academic year.

Students who fail to meet SAP and become ineligible for financial aid will have the option to complete the appeal process (see section VII below).

- A) **UNITS:** Students who are not meeting the unit standard for Satisfactory Academic Progress have until the start of the following Fall Quarter to complete the deficiency of units by completing courses during summer.
- 1) **Units from colleges other than UCSD:** Before attending summer school, review the articulation agreements for transferable coursework available through the College Academic Advising offices. Students should also check with the UCSD Admissions Office to make sure the units are transferable and the maximum number of transferable units has not been attained. Refer to the [Summer Session Verification form](#) available online at Tritonlink.
  - 2) **Units from UCSD summer session:** All UCSD summer session courses (excluding UCSD Extension) are applied toward the degree objective. The Financial Aid Office will verify your summer session courses and update your SAP standing.
- B) **GPA:** Students who do not meet the 2.0 overall GPA standards have until the start of the following Fall Quarter to raise their GPA by completing courses at UCSD's summer session (excluding UCSD Extension) or at any other UC campus (excluding other UC Extensions). Students who attend colleges other than UCSD during summer will be required to notify the Financial Aid Office in order for the office to follow-up for GPA verification after official grades have been recorded with the Registrars Office.

## VII. APPEALS FOR INELIGIBILITY

Appeals may be submitted if there are "exceptional" circumstances that affected your ability to meet the SAP standards.

- A) Students provide documentation of the "exceptional" circumstances and also must have met with BOTH your college Academic Advising Office and your major department advisor in order to complete an Academic Plan.
- B) An additional probationary period(s) may be granted by the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee based on the Academic Plan.
- C) Students may not re-appeal if their appeal has been denied.
- D) Students are generally limited to only one appeal during their period of attendance at UCSD.

## VIII. FINANCIAL AID PROBATION

Students whose appeals are approved for further financial aid, may continue to receive financial aid on a probationary quarter-by-quarter basis. The length of the probation period varies depending upon the Academic Plan completed by BOTH the college Academic Advisors and the major department advisor. During the financial aid probationary period, students must maintain the requirements outlined on the Academic Plan. Failure to meet the requirements for subsequent quarter(s) will result in loss of further financial aid eligibility. Additional appeals will generally not be available, unless "exceptional" circumstances have occurred that are "new developments" over and above the previous circumstances addressed in the student's previous Satisfactory Academic Progress appeal.

**Readmitted Students:** Students who were academically dismissed by the university, had failed to meet the SAP standards during their last academic year of attendance at UCSD and are readmitted for 2011-12 by their College Academic Advising Office, will be given a ONE-TIME ONLY financial aid probationary year.

For more information regarding these standards please contact the Financial Aid Office (858) 534-4480.