



# Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for Undergraduate Financial Aid Recipients

This policy reflects the standards that are used to measure satisfactory academic progress (SAP) at Northwood University for purposes of financial aid eligibility. Federal regulations require that the university establish and implement a policy to measure if a financial aid recipient is making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree. Satisfactory academic progress is measured by evaluating both GPA achievement (qualitative measurement) and pace (quantitative measurement) to ensure successful program completion within the maximum timeframe allowed. The standards are subject to change per federal regulations. The Financial Aid Office would notify students if any changes were to occur.

A student receiving federal, state and/or Northwood financial aid must maintain satisfactory academic progress to retain financial aid eligibility. Some scholarship, grant, and loan programs may impose higher standards of performance. Each student's academic record will be reviewed annually at the end of the Spring semester. Students who do not maintain satisfactory progress will have their financial aid eligibility suspended.

Courses taken during compressed or mini sessions will be counted at the time of review occurring after the Spring semester. All English as a Second Language and remedial coursework is considered part of the student's cumulative academic record.

**Transfer Student Eligibility** – Transfer students enrolling at Northwood are considered to be making satisfactory academic progress. All transfer hours accepted toward completion of the student's program must be counted as both hours attempted and hours completed for measurement of maximum time frame (pace/quantitative – see below).

**Treatment of Grades** - For purposes of this policy, the following grades are considered attempted and completed: A, B, C, D, I, P, or a Z, including pluses and minuses. Grades of W and F are considered attempted and not completed. A grade of X (audit) will not be considered as attempted or completed.

**Repeat Courses** - Repeat classes are assessed as new classes. Initial and repeated enrollments in the same course count as hours attempted each time the course is taken. A student may receive financial aid for repeating a failed class until it is passed. A student may receive financial aid for repeating a previously passed course once.

**Maximum Timeframe/Credits (Quantitative – 150%)** - The length of eligibility is based on a student's total academic record starting with the entry date at Northwood and includes all Northwood attempted hours, transfer hours from other institutions, advanced standing credit, prior learning assessment credit and test outs. A student may receive financial aid for no more than a maximum of 150% of their published program length. For example, if the length of an academic program is 123 credit hours, the maximum timeframe during which a student may be eligible for financial aid must not exceed 185 total credit hours.

In the event a student decides to add a second major or completely change his or her major, the published program length of the student's current program is used at the time of the evaluation.

**Pace of Progress Toward Degree Completion (Quantitative)** - Students must earn at least 67% of credit hours attempted.

**Minimum GPA Requirements (Qualitative)** - The following table details the minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) requirements.

Semester Hours Earned	Minimum Cumulative GPA
1-15	1.70
16-29	1.80
30-59	1.90
60 or more	2.00

Students must achieve and maintain a 2.0 minimum cumulative grade point average at the end of the second academic year, or have an academic standing consistent with the minimum GPA requirements listed above.

**Change of Satisfactory Academic Progress Status** - Although a student's cumulative grade point average or earned credits may change within a semester (e.g. by recording a final grade in place of a grade of I), the student's academic progress status is not re-evaluated or changed during the semester. It will be re-evaluated at the time of the next review.

**Financial Aid Suspension and Probation** - Students that do not maintain satisfactory academic progress will be placed on financial aid suspension and notified in writing. Probationary status will be considered upon appeal.

**Financial Aid Suspension:** In the event the student's aid is suspended, the student has a right to appeal. The appeal process is described below. If the student's appeal is denied, the student remains on Financial Aid Suspension until he/she meets the requirements for reinstatement.

**Financial Aid Probation:** If the student's appeal is granted, the student will be placed on Financial Aid Probation and may receive aid for one (1) semester. At the end of that semester, progress will be reviewed, and the student must be making satisfactory academic progress or must be successfully following an Academic Performance Improvement Plan in order to continue receiving aid. If the student fails to meet the requirements, the student's aid is suspended again. To regain eligibility the student must meet the requirements for reinstatement as described below.

**Appeal Process** – A student whose aid has been suspended and has documentable mitigating circumstances, such as a death in the family or an illness, may appeal his/her aid suspension. The student's appeal must include why he/she failed to make satisfactory academic progress and what has changed that will allow the student to make satisfactory academic progress at the end of the semester. To appeal, a student must submit a Satisfactory Academic Appeal form with non-returnable supporting documentation. The appeal and documentation must be submitted within 14 calendar days of the date of the financial aid suspension notification. The appeal form can be obtained from the Office of Financial Aid.

The Financial Aid Director, will notify the student in writing of the appeal decision. In the event the appeal is granted, the student will be placed on Financial Aid Probation. **Please note: If an appeal is granted, the student MUST meet with his/her academic advisor to develop an Academic Performance Improvement Plan.**

If the appeal is denied, the student remains on Financial Aid Suspension until he or she meets the requirements for reinstatement.

**Reinstatement of Financial Aid Eligibility** - Students who have had their financial aid suspended will have their progress reviewed at the end of each future semester until the standards of progress are met. To re-establish satisfactory status, the student must meet all GPA (qualitative) and maximum timeframe/pace (quantitative) standards in this policy or successfully meet the standards in the student's Academic Performance Improvement Plan. Aid granted after reinstatement would begin the next semester of enrollment following reinstatement and will be based on funds available at that time.