
Satisfactory Academic Progress FAQs

- **Is it better to withdraw or take an “F”?**- A “W” will not affect your grade point average but will adversely affect your completion ratio. A grade of “F” will have a negative effect on both your grade point average and your completion ratio. Your academic history should be considered.
- **What happens if I fail to meet the minimum standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress?**-
Warning – Failure to meet all parts of the satisfactory academic progress policy will result in financial aid 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. **There is no warning for the 150% maximum time frame*
Suspension – Failure to meet the minimum required GPA or minimum completion ratio during the semester(s) following notification of warning will result in financial aid suspension.
- **Can I get financial aid reinstated?**- Students who do not meet the normal standards of satisfactory academic progress may have their eligibility reinstated for the next period of enrollment once they have brought their record up to the standard outlined in this policy, or have been granted an appeal approval.

Right to Appeal

Students who believe extraordinary circumstances prevented them from attaining satisfactory academic progress may submit a type-written appeal. Reasonable basis for an appeal may include:

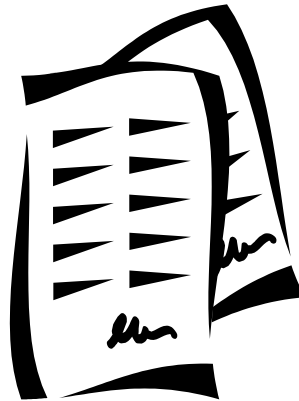
- Student/family illness or injury
- Death of a relative
- A significant and reasonable change in educational and/or career objectives

Students should submit documentation to verify the extraordinary circumstance. Appropriate documentation includes medical records and doctor’s notes, court/legal records, unemployment statements, etc. Students must address in the appeal what prevented them from meeting the SAP standards and what has changed in their circumstances that will now allow them to demonstrate progress.

Additional information about appeals and the appeal process can be found at: www.hcc.edu/sap

Financial Aid Probation

If a student is granted an appeal approval, s/he is considered to be on financial aid probation. A student on financial aid probation will be eligible to receive financial aid for one semester. To remain eligible following an appeal approval, the student must meet normal SAP standards and/or fulfill the requirements of an academic plan.



HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy for Financial Aid

Required by Federal and State Regulations



HCC Financial Aid Office
303 Homestead Avenue
Frost 201
Holyoke, MA 01040

Phone: 413-552-2150
Fax: 413-552-2192
E-mail: financialaid@hcc.edu
Web: www.hcc.edu/finaid

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is the minimum standards required to maintain financial aid eligibility for federal and state programs.



Federal and state financial aid is intended to assist students as they make successful progress toward completing a degree or certificate. Therefore, each student carries the responsibility to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress.

A review of satisfactory academic progress will be completed at the conclusion of each semester (fall, spring, summer) for all degree and certificate students.

There are multiple components of the SAP policy and it is the student's responsibility to read and understand the components.

Examples of student Aid Programs impacted by the standard:

- Federal- grants, loans & work-study
- State- grants, scholarships, tuition waivers
- Institutional- grants, scholarships

The full HCC Satisfactory Academic Progress policy can be found at: www.hcc.edu/sap

QUALITATIVE STANDARD: GRADE-BASED

To meet the qualitative standard a student must maintain a cumulative grade point average high enough to avoid academic probation or dismissal according to Holyoke Community College's academic standards, specified below using the *financial aid GPA*:

Cumulative GPA Hours:	Cumulative <i>Financial Aid GPA</i> Required:
Below 9	No minimum
9 – 30	1.75
Above 30	2.0

A student may have a different *financial aid GPA* than their College GPA due to the inclusion of both pre- and post- Fresh Start grades and the inclusion of final grades from remedial/developmental courses in the calculation.



QUANTITATIVE STANDARD: COMPLETION-BASED

The quantitative standard, which has two aspects, is based on the U. S. Department of Education requirement that recipients of federal student aid complete degree or certificate requirements within 150% of the normal time frame. The limit of the **maximum time frame** is one aspect of the quantitative standard; the complementary **pace standard** requires that the student make reasonable progress toward earning the degree or certificate within that time frame as s/he attempts coursework along the way.

Maximum Time Frame

The maximum time frame for students in both degree and certificate programs is stated in terms of attempted semester hours. Students must complete their program of study within 150% of the published number of semester hours (credits) required to complete the program at HCC. A student is ineligible to receive financial aid once they have reached the 150% limit or it becomes clear that s/he will not be able to complete degree requirements within the 150% time frame.

Pace Toward Program Completion

For a student to meet the pace standard s/he must earn semester hours at HCC equal to at least two-thirds (2/3) of the cumulatively attempted semester hours (calculated at 0.67).