

Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Eligibility for the Medical College of Wisconsin

In order to be eligible for federal student aid, a student must make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). The Department of Education (ED) requires SAP to be measured in both qualitative (grade) and quantitative (pace) components. The qualitative component is measured by calculating the student's cumulative GPA. The quantitative component is measured by calculating the number of credits earned divided by the number of attempted credits. Students must also remain in good standing as defined by the Academic Standing Committee governing the school.

SAP will be evaluated at the end of each semester for all students receiving financial aid. Students not meeting SAP will automatically be placed on Financial Aid Hold for one term the first time only. At the end of that term (semester), the student must be making SAP. If not, the student will lose eligibility until the student meets the defined SAP components. If a student is not meeting SAP, satisfactory progress cannot be regained during a term and will only be reevaluated at the end of the term. If the student is meeting SAP requirements at the end of that term, s/he will regain eligibility the following term. A student is responsible for the charges incurred during periods in which eligibility is lost. If a student in an ineligible status receives aid, full repayment of all funds will be required.

Satisfactory Academic Progress will be reviewed after grades have posted for the term and/or after notification from the Academic Standing Committee at the next evaluation point.

Qualitative Standard – Grade Average

Financial aid recipients are governed by the performance standards of the school in which they are enrolled. A student not meeting the requirements will be placed on Financial Aid Hold. If a student is placed on Financial Aid Hold, they will be required to repay any financial aid received during the period of ineligibility.

Graduate Studies Students

The loss of aid eligibility will continue until the student has met both the qualitative and quantitative standards or is meeting the standards of the prescribed academic plan approved in an appeal

An Appeals Process to be Placed on Financial Aid Probation

A student who does not meet the minimum standards for satisfactory academic progress may appeal to the Financial Aid office for reinstatement of financial aid eligibility. Appeals should be submitted in writing and must include relevant documentation. The Financial Aid office must receive the written appeal no later than 10 business days of the notification of failure to meet SAP.

The appeal must demonstrate that: 1.) there were extenuating circumstances that caused the student to fail to meet the requirements for SAP (i.e. a death in the student's immediate family, a student's medical illness or injury or other undue hardships and 2.) there is a clear plan in place to meet the requirements of SAP. A student must submit the completed appeal to the Financial Aid Office within 10 business days of the notification.

If the Financial Aid Office approves the appeal, the student will be placed on financial aid probation and will continue to receive financial aid for that semester. Normally, the period of probation is one semester, but it may be longer if specified in an academic plan included in the conditions of probation. At the end of the semester, the Financial Aid office will review the student's progress toward meeting the requirements for SAP. At this point the student must meet the requirements of the academic plan and for SAP. If not, the student will lose financial aid eligibility. The Financial Aid office will notify the student where appropriate.