



## Walsh University



# Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for Financial Aid

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The Financial Aid Office at Walsh University is required under Federal regulations to monitor the academic progress of all financial aid recipients. Failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) can affect a student's eligibility for federal financial aid. Both qualitative and quantitative standards are applied when determining SAP. Walsh University reviews SAP at the end of each spring semester. Students who fail to meet SAP are sent written notification which includes Walsh University's SAP policy as well as appeal information.

### ACCEPTABLE PASSING RATE

Each student must earn a passing grade in at least 67% of all courses attempted at Walsh University. "F" (Failed) and "W" (Withdrawn) grades will be counted as hours attempted but not passed. "I" (Incomplete) coursework cannot be counted as a successful completion. An Incomplete grade that has been changed to a passing grade can be added to the number of hours completed. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Office of Financial Aid once an incomplete grade has been changed to a valid grade. Transfer hours accepted by Walsh University and repeated coursework are considered in this ratio.

### ACCEPTABLE GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

The minimum GPA standards for financial aid eligibility must be equal to or higher than the standard set forth by Walsh University for academic standing purposes. Freshmen must have a cumulative GPA of at least 1.75. Sophomores/juniors/seniors must have a cumulative GPA of at least a 2.0 in order to maintain federal SAP. Determination of GPA requirements (1.75 vs. 2.0) for entering transfer students will be based on the number of transfer credits they carry with them from their prior institution(s), but the approved transfer coursework will have no effect upon the cumulative grade point average. Only one grade for a repeated course will be reflected in the calculation of the student's GPA. (For federal aid purposes, a student is allowed to repeat a course only once if a passing grade is achieved). The minimum cumulative GPA for graduate students is 3.0 and the calculation also follows the transfer and repeated coursework stipulations cited above.

### TIME LIMITS

Students cannot exceed 187 attempted hours (150% of graduation requirements) and continue to receive financial aid toward their undergraduate degree. Transfer hours are included in the 187 attempted hours. (Please note: State Aid is only available for a

maximum of five full-time years, regardless of whether or not the student has reached the 187 credit hour limit.) Time limits are applicable even during periods where students did not receive Title IV aid and include courses taken during the summer. Transfer hours and repeated coursework also count when calculating acceptable time frame limits. Graduate students are not held to the same 150% calculation based on their specific graduation requirements. The 150% maximum time frame allowance for completion of the program is intended to be long enough to allow for changes in major, loss of credit due to transfer, withdrawn coursework, minor, double majors, etc.; therefore, an extension of the maximum time frame granted for those reasons is unlikely. Students seeking a second degree are limited to the federal Direct Loan program and will be monitored for time limits as well.

## APPEALS

Students who have lost their eligibility for federal financial aid due to not maintaining SAP will be notified in writing and have a right to appeal. All appeals must include substantive reasons for failure to comply with the SAP Policy, and all extenuating circumstances should be supported by documentation whenever possible. Documentation should not only indicate the mitigating circumstance(s) that caused a student to have academic difficulty, but also indicate that the circumstance which caused the situation has been rectified so that the student will be successful in future terms. Prior to submitting the appeal to the Student Service Center, the student must contact the Director of Academic Achievement for assistance in completing certain sections of the appeal form.

If an appeal is approved, students are granted a probationary period in which to rectify the reason why he/she did not meet SAP. If it is apparent that the student cannot complete this within one term, an extension may be given to the student after review of the academic "Action Plan" included in the original appeal. If the student does not adhere to the criteria outlined in the Action Plan, the probationary period will not be extended.

## REGAINING FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

Students can regain full eligibility for federal financial aid by successfully completing coursework while in Suspension status that will raise their cumulative GPA to meet or exceed the minimum required for their total attempted hours, and raise their overall Cumulative Completion Rate for all coursework attempted to the 67% undergraduate or graduate level. Students who are ineligible to receive federal financial aid may use one or more of the following payment options while attempting to regain eligibility: student's own resources, Walsh University's Payment Plan, and/or Alternative/Private Educational Loans.

(PLEASE NOTE: Since Walsh University does not offer remedial courses, that category of coursework is not addressed in this SAP Policy.)