

## **Lamar State College-Orange**

### **Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress For Persons Receiving Financial Aid**

#### **Purpose and Scope**

The following Standards of Academic Progress (SAP) are in accordance with federal guidelines for continuing student eligibility for financial aid.

#### **Procedures**

The financial aid office will review SAP, each year when the student applies for financial aid. New students, transfers and returning students in good standing will be awarded for the entire year.

#### **Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement**

Students must maintain a 2.00 GPA to remain eligible to receive financial aid.

#### **Completion Rate Requirement**

Students must maintain a completion percentage (earned hours/attempted hours) of at least 70% to remain eligible to receive aid. Courses attempted include all courses for which a student is registered. In order for a course to be considered complete, the student must receive a grade of A, B, C, D, or S. Grades of W, Q, F, U, NG or I will not be considered as complete for SAP purposes.

#### **Grade Changes and Incompletes**

Grade changes due to the grade replacement policy, completing coursework towards an incomplete, or an instructor-initiated change will not be considered until the official change is made in the records office.

#### **Time Limits for Academic Progress**

A student may receive financial aid for no more than 150 % of the published length of their declared degree program. For example, if the stated number of hours for a degree program is 64 hours the student may receive aid for no more than 96 hours. ( $64 \times 1.5 = 96$ ) Included in this total will be all college coursework attempted at all schools attended.

#### **Remedial Courses**

A student enrolled in a regular program may receive financial aid for no more than 30 semester hours of remedial coursework. Remedial courses will be considered when calculating a student's completion rate and will count towards their total number of hours for SAP.

#### **Summer Courses**

Summer and mini-session coursework will be included in all completion rate and GPA calculations. Students failing to make satisfactory progress may be awarded state aid for a summer session if it is possible for them to meet satisfactory progress at the end of that period.

#### **Appeals**

Students denied aid may appeal in writing to the financial aid office. This appeal should explain any mitigating circumstances, which have caused the student's failure to make academic progress. The Coordinator of Financial Aid will review appeals. Relevant documentation necessary to verify or support the appeal (e.g. death in immediate family, extended personal illness, recent divorce, etc.) should be submitted with the appeal letter. Students shall be notified of the decision on their appeal within 2 weeks of receiving their appeal letter. Students denied their appeal may then make an additional appeal to the Vice President of Student Services.

#### **Probation**

A student not meeting SAP, but who have their appeal accepted, will be placed on probation. They will receive written notice of their probation. In order to continue receiving aid the student must complete 75 % of all coursework attempted for that semester, and attain a GPA of 2.00 for the semester. Their status will be reevaluated at the end of the semester, which they are placed on probation. They will be notified in writing of their status at the end of that semester.

#### **Suspension**

A student not meeting SAP, and who will not be able to attain that status after one semester will be denied financial aid. This status will remain in effect until the student is granted an appeal or completes coursework, which brings them in compliance with all standards for academic progress.