

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

SAP will be reviewed, by the financial aid office each semester after the student applies for financial aid. New students, and transfers and returning students in good standing will be awarded for the entire year, but will be reevaluated at the end of their first semester. Students not in good standing will be denied aid and must follow the appeal process below to be considered for any aid.

Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement

Students must maintain a 2.00 GPA to remain eligible to receive financial aid. Included in this calculation will be all college coursework attempted at all schools attended.

Completion Rate Requirement – PACE

A student receiving financial aid must maintain a reasonable pace towards completion of their degree. Pace will be determined by dividing the number of hours earned by the number of hours completed. Students must maintain a pace 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. Included in this calculation will be all college coursework accepted at the institution.

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 and Mini-Sessions

Summer and mini-session coursework will be included in all completion rate and GPA calculations.

Repeat Course work

Students may repeat a course as many times as needed until they have attained a passing grade, but all attempts will count towards the GPA and pace standards. Once a student has received a passing grade, the course may be repeated only once. Any attempts in excess of the one allowed repeat will not be funded.

Warning

Students who were new or in good standing at the beginning of semester, but fail to maintain academic progress at the end of that semester will be placed on a warning status. Students placed on a warning status will remain eligible to receive aid for the subsequent semester. If they fail to attain satisfactory progress at the end of that semester they will be ineligible to receive future aid unless they are granted an appeal or complete coursework, which returns them to good standing.

Probation

A student not meeting SAP, but who have their appeal accepted, will be placed on probation if it is possible for the student to regain an acceptable academic progress status at the end of the semester. A student placed on probation will be notified through the MyLSCO portal at the time they are awarded. In order to continue receiving aid the student must complete 75 % of all coursework attempted for that semester, and a cumulative GPA, which meets the standards described above. Their status will be reevaluated at the end of the semester, which they are placed on probation.

Academic Plan

A student not meeting SAP, but who have their appeal accepted, will be placed on an Academic Plan if it is determined the student will require more than one semester to regain satisfactory academic progress. Students placed on an academic plan must meet with the financial aid coordinator in order to determine what specific conditions they must meet to remain eligible to receive aid. These specific conditions may include, but are not limited to registering for fewer credit hours, attaining a certain grade point average for the semester or taking only certain required courses.

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 their appeal decisions on their MyLSCO portal within two (2) weeks of the appeal letter being received in the financial aid office. Students denied their appeal may then make an additional appeal to the Director of Financial Aid. (***NOTE: If a student's appeal is denied, new information and documentation is required at each level of appeal to enhance the chances for granting subsequent appeals.***) If appeal is denied by the Director, students may then appeal to the Vice President for Student Services. The decision of the Vice President is final. Ten (10) working days should be allowed at each level of appeal. Students will be notified of all appeal decisions through their MyLSCO portal. A student's not meeting SAP, but who has their appeal accepted, will be placed on probation or be placed on a Satisfactory Academic Plan. They will receive notification by status updates on their MyLSCO portal. Under the terms of probation, the student must complete 75% of all attempted coursework for that semester, and attain a GPA of 2.0 for the semester. Their status will be reevaluated at the end of the semester, which is when they are placed on probation. They will be notified of their new status on their MyLSCO portal at the end of that semester.