



## **CURRY COLLEGE**

### **Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress for Undergraduate Students including Continuing Education Students - effective July 1, 2011**

#### **Undergraduate Degree Students including Continuing Education Students**

Whether enrolled on a full or part-time basis, all undergraduate and Continuing Education degree-seeking students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to receive financial aid.

Satisfactory Academic Progress is defined as proceeding toward successful completion of degree requirements. Curry College has adopted the following SAP standards in accordance with U.S. Department of Education requirements. These SAP standards are for financial aid purposes only and do not replace or override the academic policies of the College. Eligibility to continue enrollment at the College and to participate in varsity athletics can be found in the Academic Policies and Procedures section of the Curry College Catalog and on the College website. All students are responsible for ensuring their adherence to SAP and all other academic standards.

Satisfactory academic progress includes three standards of measurement:

1. Cumulative Grade Point Average (qualitative)
2. Credits Earned (quantitative)
3. Maximum Time Frame (length of study)

#### **Cumulative Grade Point Average (Qualitative)**

To retain financial aid eligibility, all undergraduate and Continuing Education students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average based on the attempted number of credits:

<b>Attempted Credits</b>	<b>Minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average</b>
0 to 18.99	1.5
19 to 59.99	1.8
60 or more	2.0

Attempted credits are those credits for which a student is registered at the end of the College's official course add/drop period. Thus, attempted credits include all graded courses, accepted transfer courses, courses from which a student has withdrawn after the drop/add period (W), and courses in which a student receives an incomplete (IN).

Credits accepted from another institution toward the student's educational program will be counted as both attempted and completed hours.

A student's cumulative GPA is based on graded credits only. Transfer courses, withdrawals, and incompletes are not included in a student's cumulative GPA.

### **Credits Attempted versus Credits Earned (Quantitative)**

All students must complete at least 67% of the credits which they attempted. The 67% is based on a ratio of the cumulative number of credits a student has attempted versus the cumulative number of credits a student has earned and a maximum of 180 credits.

For example:

- A student who has attempted 30 credits should have successfully completed at least 20 of those credits.
- Full-time students typically must earn at least 20 credits per year. In other words, the student should have earned 1/6 of the total number of credits required to complete the degree by the end of the first year, 2/6 or 40 credits by the end of the second year, etc.

### **Maximum Time Frame (Length of Study)**

Students must complete all their degree requirements within the maximum allowable time frame which cannot be longer than 150% of the published length of the program or the required number of credits of the student's degree program. Students enrolled full-time and earning a four-year degree are allowed up to six years or 180 attempted credits of financial aid eligibility to earn the 120 credits required for degree completion.

Regardless of whether a student is receiving financial aid during the time frame, semesters and credit hours are used toward the maximum time frame allowance. Once a student has exceeded the maximum time frame or 180 credits, the student will no longer be eligible for financial aid. If at any point within the course of their program, it becomes apparent that a student will be unable to meet SAP standards within the maximum time frame, the student will become ineligible for financial aid.

### **Satisfactory Academic Progress Reviews**

All degree-seeking undergraduate students, including those enrolled through the Division of Continuing Education will be evaluated for Satisfactory Academic Progress at the end of the Spring semester as part of the College's regular annual review process for all three of the standards of measurement outlined in the SAP policy. Regular annual reviews will occur when all grades and credit hours have been officially recorded by the Registrar.

Students who do not meet one or more of the SAP standards will become ineligible to receive financial aid and will be notified of their ineligibility by the College. A student may appeal the loss of financial aid by following the procedures outlined in the Regaining Financial Aid Eligibility section.

Students who enroll in a semester following the annual SAP review and choose to appeal will be reviewed for adherence to the SAP standards at the end of that semester, regardless of when the appeal is received.

**For example:** Students, who end the spring semester on probation and choose not to appeal prior to the completion of the next period of enrollment, are still required to appeal for SAP if seeking aid for future

semesters. Furthermore, that next period of enrollment following the annual SAP review automatically becomes the semester in which a student will be re-reviewed for SAP compliance.

Note: The summer semester is included as a period of enrollment.

### **Regaining Financial Aid Eligibility**

#### **Enrolling without Financial Aid**

A student who is academically eligible to continue in their program may do so without financial assistance if they are able to settle their tuition account by using other financing options. A student may regain aid eligibility for future semesters by coming into compliance with the SAP requirements.

#### **The Right to Appeal**

Eligibility for financial assistance may be regained in some cases by appeal. If the appeal is approved by the College, a student is eligible to enroll and receive financial assistance either on a Financial Aid Probation Status or an Academic Education Plan for their next semester of enrollment. A student may appeal no more than twice while attempting to earn a degree at the College.

#### **Appeal Process**

A student may file an appeal to the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Appeals Committee to attempt to receive financial aid. The Appeals Committee consists of the Associate Vice-President of Financial Aid, Director of Financial Aid, Associate Provost, Registrar and Associate Director of Advising and Academic Success and the Assistant Director of Continuing Education and Graduate Studies as appropriate.

*Please note these appeals are separate from academic appeals and appeals to participate in varsity athletics while on academic probation.*

Grounds for filing a financial aid appeal may include a documented serious medical condition, death of an immediate family member, or an unusual circumstance that interfered with a student's performance.

A student, themselves, must submit the Appeal and include the reason for being unsuccessful in achieving satisfactory academic progress and explain in detail why they were unable to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress, and to detail their plan to return to Satisfactory Academic Progress status. All supporting documentation should be included with the Appeal. Appeals should be submitted online by using the appeal form located on the myCurry portal under the finances tab. *Please note: Incomplete appeal forms cannot be reviewed by the Appeals Committee.*

If you do not have access to the portal, please contact Student Financial Services at 617-333-2354 or [finaid@curry.edu](mailto:finaid@curry.edu) for instructions to submit an appeal.

#### **Appeal Outcomes**

The College will notify students in writing of the outcome of their Appeal within two weeks after the Appeals Committee has reviewed the Appeal. All decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.

#### **Financial Aid Probation**

If a student's Appeal for financial aid eligibility is approved, the student may be placed on Financial Aid Probation status. Probation status may be granted if the student's failure to maintain SAP was due to an extraordinary circumstance beyond the student's control. A student who is placed on Financial Aid Probation status will temporarily regain financial aid eligibility for one successive payment period only.

A student will then be re-evaluated at the end of that one semester of enrollment. If a student is unable to return to Satisfactory Academic Progress by the end of that semester, the student will become ineligible for future financial aid at the College until such a time as they return to SAP.

For example:

- If a student is placed on Probation at the end of the Spring semester and chooses to attend the upcoming Summer semester their SAP status will be evaluated upon completion of the Summer semester. If the student meets the SAP standards at the end of the Summer grading period, they will remain eligible for financial aid for the Fall. If the student does not make Satisfactory Academic Progress at the end of the Summer semester, they will become ineligible for financial aid until such a time as they return to Satisfactory Academic Progress.
- Students who are on Financial Aid Probation, but who elect not to attend during the Summer semester will be eligible to receive financial aid for the Fall semester and will be evaluated at the end of the Fall semester. If a student meets the SAP standards at the end of the Fall grading period, they will continue to remain eligible for financial aid for the Spring semester. If a student does not meet the SAP standards at the end of the Fall semester, they will become ineligible for financial aid until such time as they return to Satisfactory Academic Progress.

### **Academic Education Plans**

As a result of an SAP Appeal review process, an Academic Education Plan may be developed with the student. An Academic Education Plan may be offered as an option to students who are not meeting the SAP standards but who have a strong likelihood of regaining SAP and successful program completion while continuing to receive financial assistance.

The initial review of a student's SAP under the Academic Education Plan will take place at the end of the first semester that a student is enrolled under the Plan and thereafter annually at the end of the Spring semester as long as the student continues to meet the terms of their Plan. Failure to meet the standards of their Academic Education Plan will result in financial aid ineligibility in subsequent semesters.

### **Unapproved Appeals**

The College will deny Appeals from students who would be unable to meet the SAP standards within the maximum time frame allotted for them to earn their degree.