Satisfactory Academic Progress
Student Financial Aid & Scholarships
Policies and Procedures

This Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy and Procedure was reviewed for 2015-16 and is effective November 13, 2015 and supersedes all other Texas Tech University Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships Satisfactory Academic Progress Policies and Procedures published on the web and/or in prior catalogs.

Purpose
 Texas Tech University is required by U.S. Department of Education to apply reasonable standards for measuring whether a student is making progress toward a degree as a standard for participating in any federal student aid program.
 The State of Texas also requires that students meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order to receive any state-funded student assistance.
 Consistent application of standards is provided to all students within all categories of students.

Policy
 Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is administered on student with a ROARSTAT record.
  o For students without a SAP history receives a ROASTAT, the student’s history is analyzed as if their SAO was checked from the start. Federal and State requirements are met and apply to Texas Tech University’s institutional financial aid eligibility by measuring SAP (after the spring semester of every year) against qualitative and quantitative standards whether or not financial aid was applied for or received during any academic period in which the student was previously enrolled. Both standards, qualitative and quantitative, must be met for a student to be eligible for Title IV aid. The academic year includes the fall, spring, summer 1 and summer 2 semesters.
  o Summer terms for SAP will be inclusive.
 This policy will be reviewed during the fall semester of every year.
 The maximum number of appeals a student may appeal their satisfactory academic progress will be based on professional judgment.

Note that the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships SAP policy differs from Texas Tech University’s Academic Status Policy for undergraduates, graduates, and law school students. The Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships SAP policy reviews both pace and maximum time frame, in addition to GPA, and all attempted credit hours are included in reviewing student eligibility. These two policies also have separate appeal procedures.

 Undergraduate Academic Status Policy
 Graduate Academic Status Policy
 Law School Academic Status Policy

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA or Qualitative Standard)
 2.0 for undergraduate programs, 2.0 for J.D. programs, 3.0 for graduate programs

Completion Percentage (Pace or Quantitative Standard)
(Note that both Pace and Maximum time frame are measured in credit hours only, regardless of full time or part time attendance.)
  o CR (research/thesis/dissertation hours) will be added to passed grades for pace and time frame calculation.
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- **Maximum Time Frame**
  - Undergraduate students - attempted credit hours may not exceed 150% of the educational program.
  - Graduate students - attempted credit hours may not exceed 150% of the educational program.
  - J.D. students – attempted credit hours may not exceed 150% of the educational program.

- **Pace**
  - At least 67% of all credit hours attempted must have successfully passing grades (all students must complete coursework with successfully passing grades by the end of each period of enrollment or put both current and future financial aid eligibility at risk). Successfully passing grades are D- and higher; all others (F, DG, DW, DX, I, NC, NP, PR, W, WF, X and repeated coursework – see below) count as unsuccessful credit hours attempted.
  - Pace is calculated by dividing all passed hours (including repeat and transfer) by all attempted hours (including repeat and transfer).

**Elements Affecting GPA and Pace**

- **Incompletes**
  At the time of evaluation, Incompletes (grade of “I”) do not affect a student’s cumulative GPA for SAP, but count as credit hours attempted toward both pace and maximum time frame. Students with grades of Incomplete which become new letter grades prior to or during a subsequent period of enrollment and that may affect financial aid eligibility for that period of enrollment are encouraged to contact finaid.sap@ttu.edu for further evaluation.

- **Withdrawals or Dropped Courses**
  Withdrawals or dropped courses do not affect a student’s cumulative GPA for SAP, but count as credit hours attempted, but not passed, toward both pace and maximum time frame.

- **Course Repetition**
  Students are allowed to repeat a course and have it count toward enrollment for financial aid eligibility only once. However, all prior attempts will count toward a student’s pace, GPA and maximum time frame. A passing grade will be treated as such. So a student who scores a C, but retakes it to get an A, both count as passing.

- **Transfer Credits**
  Transfer credits will count toward a student’s cumulative GPA, pace and maximum time frame for SAP. These credit hours will be calculated in the term the Registrar’s office has entered them. Students receive a pending SAP code for the initial term of enrollment to allow for calculation of transfer credits received.

- **Readmit Students**
  Students who have not had SAP calculated prior to readmission will receive a T1Pend code and SAP calculated after the term of readmission. SAP codes are valid for students who have a prior SAP calculation prior to readmission.
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- **Consortium**
  For consortium agreements, students will be reviewed and SAP calculated at the next normally scheduled SAP process.

- **Remedial Courses**
  Remedial coursework will be counted in determining financial aid eligibility, enrollment status, and satisfactory academic progress. These courses will initially be included in maximum timeframe calculations. Exclusions may be considered in some cases. Remedial courses do not count towards the total number of credits needed for graduation. Students will be limited to no more than thirty (30) remedial credits for financial aid eligibility.

- **Dual Degree**
  Students pursuing a double major or dual degree should keep in mind that once a student has completed the requirements for one major or degree, financial aid eligibility is limited. SAP is calculated based on current class/level as assigned by the Office of the Registrar. For SAP purposes, both Programs will require Academic Unit documentation.

- **Waivers and Exemptions**
  Legislative requirements state a student receiving certain waivers/exemptions must meet the GPA requirement portion of this SAP policy. Student may or may not have a FAFSA on file. Student Business Services identifies all students with qualifying waivers and exemptions to be included in the SAP analysis.

- **Change of Major**
  Change of major can result in a possible overage of attempted credit hours which would impact the maximum timeframe component.

- **Students Who Receive All Failing Grades**
  If a student receives all failing grades (any combination of 'F', 'DP', 'X', 'W', 'DG', 'DW', 'DX', 'NC', or 'PR'), attendance in all classes will be reviewed. If attendance cannot be confirmed via official TTU Registrar records, Student Financial Aid personnel will apply the federally mandated calculation for the return of financial aid funds. Unearned Title IV funds (aid) will be returned to the programs from which the money was paid to the student (or parent) and it is possible repayment could be owed to the university.

- **Conflicting Information**
  All conflicting information is reviewed for SAP monitoring. For example, late posted grades or grade changes will not automatically change a student’s current status. Students may request that their SAP status be recalculated after confirming with the Registrar that the grade change has been posted to the academic record. A student may have to re-pay unearned financial aid.

For students who do not wish to appeal and who successfully meet the minimum standards without state or federal aid, a student must notify the Office of Student Financial Aid to be considered for financial aid for their next term of enrollment. The financial aid committee will review student records and appropriate material to determine reinstatement of their aid. Financial aid is not provided retroactively for any ineligible terms if they meet SAP without aid.
**Evaluation**

All students enrolled at Texas Tech University are evaluated for SAP annually (after the spring semester), after the Registrar’s office has released official grades. Students can find their SAP status within the Financial Aid menu on Raiderlink.

For the annual evaluation, a student loses Title IV eligibility immediately if SAP is not met. If the student’s appeal is successful, the student is placed on SAP Contract and Title IV funds are disbursed for the next payment period only. The student must meet SAP at the end of the payment period or comply with requirements of academic plan designed to ensure student will make SAP by a specified point in time.

**Status Definitions**

- **Eligible** – Student is eligible for financial aid. This category may include students with no SAP issue at all, students who have appealed successfully and have successfully completed their SAP Contract period of enrollment, students who have successfully completed their SAP Contract period of enrollment and are following their Academic Plan, and students who have met SAP after being ineligible previously.

- **Suspended** - Failure to make SAP; however, student is eligible to appeal. If the appeal is approved, the student can continue financial aid eligibility for another period of enrollment under a SAP Contract status. Students may also choose not to appeal and attempt to regain financial aid eligibility by meeting SAP while paying out of pocket (without any financial aid). Students on suspension may not receive financial aid unless appeal is approved.

- **SAP Contract** - Failure to make SAP, but appeal is approved and student is financial aid eligible for one more period of enrollment, or possibly more if following required Academic Plan (which may include documentation requirements not directly related to academic performance). SAP Contract follows a successful appeal.

- **Ineligible** - Failure to meet SAP and/or failure to follow required Academic Plan. This status also applies to appeals that are not approved. Student is not eligible for financial aid until cumulative SAP standards are met and may not appeal.

**Appeal Procedure**

- All students who have their financial aid eligibility suspended may appeal to the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships by completing a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Request Form and submitting to the Student Financial Center, 301 West Hall, emailing to finaid.sap@ttu.edu or faxing to 806-742-5300 to receive financial aid in a subsequent period of enrollment. You may visit a Financial Aid Advisor during our walk in business hours at the Student Financial Center, 301 West Hall (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday).

- GPA, pace, and maximum time frame are all appealable.
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- If a student appeals on the basis of one circumstance and wants to appeal again based on the same circumstance, updated documentation must be provided about what has changed to permit the student to make SAP at the next evaluation. Reviewed on a case by case basis.
  - Student printed name, R number, daytime contact information, and signature.
  - The Appeal form also serves as the contract.
  - The student will gather the academic advisor portion of the Appeal form. This document will be sent to the student’s TTU Email account and is located at the following website: http://www.financialaid.ttu.edu/forms/SAP_AppealRequestForm.pdf.
  - Basis on which student may file an appeal:
    - **Medical:** Illness, accident, or injury experienced by you or an immediate family member. (Documentation Required: Physicians’ statement, police report, hospital bill statement, etc.)
    - **Death:** Death of an immediate family member. (Documentation Required: Obituary or death certificate.)
    - **Divorce:** You or your parents. (Documentation Required: Divorce decree, lawyers’ statement, etc.)
    - **Military Service:** If you withdrew due to military service, provide documentation.
    - **Exceeding timeframe:** If you are a second undergraduate degree student, in a dual-degree program, or have changed your major.
    - **Other Circumstances:** Please clearly state your reason in Section C and provide documentation.

Circumstances related to the typical adjustment to college life such as working while attending school, financial issues related to paying bills and car maintenance/travel to campus, are not considered a basis for purposes of appealing suspension of financial aid.

- Include information describing why SAP minimum standards have not been met and how the situation has changed so that SAP will be met at next evaluation.
- Detail any mitigating circumstances, including supporting documentation from a 3rd party (e.g., police reports, detailed hospital bill or physician’s statement, death certificate, etc.).
- Demonstrate understanding why student failed to make SAP and explain what has changed that will allow the student to make SAP at the next evaluation.
- Include enrollment plans for next period of enrollment (e.g., number of credit hours, change in major, any other academic-related documentation, etc.
- Undergraduate and graduate student appeal deadline is two weeks prior to last class day of fall, spring and summer semesters. The last class day is listed in the Official Academic Calendar.
- For Law School students, deadlines will be adjusted accordingly per academic calendar and timing of SAP administration.
- Appeals will be reviewed within 10 business days once our office has received a complete appeal (the student and academic portion of the appeal). The entire process may take 4-6 weeks minimum.
Consistent application of standards is provided to all students within all categories of students for purposes of appeal review and basis upon which students may file an appeal. Students are notified of their SAP appeal decision via their Texas Tech University Email account. All appeal decisions are considered final. Students whose appeals are not approved may also re-establish financial aid eligibility only by meeting the SAP cumulative standards. Should a student be denied and feels that he/she could add additional documentation to support a written hardship, the student may re-appeal once in the term. A re-appeal does not guarantee SAP approval.

How a student can get reinstated should appeal get denied:

Once the minimum requirements have been met, (attending and completing a semester, of at least six hours, paying “out of pocket” and maintaining a 2.0 undergraduate and 3.0 graduate current GPA), a student should notify our office and the status for aid eligibility. Should student attempt more than 6 credit hours, they must successfully complete (pass) 100% of all credit hours attempted. A student still must appeal in order to be reinstated. Meeting the above requirements does not guarantee that a student will be approved.

Once the above paragraph has been completed, a student may appeal for their next term of enrollment for financial aid consideration.

A student may consider applying for an alternative loan, as academic progress is not a requirement for approval on certain loans. These loans include the Wells Fargo Loan, Sallie Mae. You can find information on these and other loans on our website, www.financialaid.ttu.edu.

Academic Plans
All students who appeal successfully and are subsequently placed on SAP Contract may be subject to the implementation of an Academic Plan consisting of at least 2.0 GPA and 100% completion rate (3.0 GPA and 100% completion rates for graduate students) within subsequent periods of enrollment. The Academic Plans for individual students will be based on the particular situation and content of appeal on a case by case basis. Academic Plans will include an anticipated date that the student will be back to track to completion.

RESOURCES
Student Financial Aid encourages students to be aware of the resources available at Texas Tech University to assist those who might be struggling to maintain the required GPA or completion rate for Satisfactory Academic Progress.

- Student Academic Advising and Support Services
- Student Counseling Center
- Student Disabilities
- Student Health Services
- The Learning Center