

Satisfactory Academic Progress

There are significant changes to HACC's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy effective at the end of the Fall 2015 term. Please read the following changes indicated below.

In order to receive financial aid, you must make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as defined by the U.S. Department of Education. SAP is different from the College's definition of academic standing. All HACC students who have completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and wish to be considered for federal financial aid must meet the criteria stated in this policy regardless of whether or not they previously received aid. These requirements apply to part-time as well as full-time students for all terms of enrollment within an academic year, even if no financial aid was granted during those terms. Evaluation of SAP is made at the end of each semester (Fall, Spring, Summer) by the Financial Aid Office once grades are available in the system. This review looks at grades received, courses attempted, GPA, and pace towards graduation.

Why is there a change?

The U.S. Department of Education issued regulations in an effort to ensure program integrity at colleges and universities. These regulations were adopted so that students will make progress toward their degrees.

What exactly has changed?

What has changed is the evaluation of criteria so that HACC's policy complies with Federal Regulations. Effective after Fall 2015, the following changes will take effect:

1. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) will be checked after every term (Fall, Spring, Summer).
2. Students must pass 67% of all their coursework.
3. Students must maintain a specific cumulative GPA after each term according to the credits they have earned (See table below).

Total Credit Hours Earned	Minimum Cumulative GPA Required
Up to < 12	1.00
12 - <25	1.20
25 - <37	1.40
37 - <49	1.60
49 - <61	1.80
61 or Greater	2.00

New Warning Status: Students who do not meet the cumulative GPA and 67% credit hour completion rate may be placed on financial aid warning. During their warning term, students are permitted to receive federal aid. However, if students do not meet the SAP criteria after their warning term, they will be placed on financial aid suspension and their aid cancelled for all upcoming terms.

Appeal Process: If a student is placed on financial aid suspension, he/she may appeal the decision if circumstances beyond the student's control contributed to their poor progress.

If the appeal is approved, students will enter a probationary period of financial aid eligibility. The student must follow the academic plan outlined between the student and their advisor/counselor. To continue to receive federal financial aid, the student must either achieve the overall SAP standard or continue to follow the academic plan. If the student fails to adhere to their academic plan, take courses not listed on the academic plan, or receives a D, W, F, I, or Y grade, subsequent eligibility for financial aid will be discontinued. Aid will not be reinstated again until the student successfully completes enough courses to meet the completion rate and CGPA standards (67% and GPA).

If the appeal is denied, students must meet SAP criteria before aid will be reinstated.

Returning to good SAP standing:

Students meeting SAP standards will return to good standing and be eligible to receive financial aid. However, aid will not be reinstated retroactively.

What can be done to prepare for the changes?

Students should become familiar with their SAP status and are responsible for monitoring their grades. Students should also meet with an Academic Advisor/Counselor on a regular basis to ensure they are making progress toward a degree in a timely manner.

Programs affected by these regulations are:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Work Study (FWS)
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- Federal Direct Subsidized Loan
- Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

PHEAA State Grant regulations – The Satisfactory Academic Progress policy for Pennsylvania State Grants is not covered under this policy, but is instead determined separately by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA).
