

**College Procedure:** 503.3 – Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic  
**Policy Reference:** Progress (SAP)  
503 – Tuition, Fees and Financial Aid  
**Responsible Department:** Student Services  
**Approval Authority:** Cabinet  
**Procedure Owner:** Vice President, Student Services  
**Effective Date:** 5/22/2017

**Version Number:** 2  
**Legal Counsel Reviewed (yes/no):** No  
**Legal Reference(s):**  
**Scope:** College-wide

---

## Reason for Procedure

Federal regulations, HEA Sec. 484(c), §668.16, 668.34, require all schools participating in Title IV Federal Financial Aid programs to have Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) guidelines that conform to the requirements detailed below. These requirements apply to all students as one determinant of eligibility for financial aid.

## The Procedure

Progress is measured by the student's cumulative grade point average (GPA), percentage of credit hours earned in relation to those attempted (Pace), and the length of the academic program. In order to assure that students, make progress toward earning a degree both in terms of number of hours completed and cumulative GPA, Kirkwood Community College uses the following Financial Aid SAP rules.

All students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a cumulative Pace of 67%. Cumulative records are reviewed after each payment period to evaluate progress. All periods of registration, including summer term, will be evaluated regardless of whether or not financial aid was disbursed during the term. This includes remedial credits, ESL credits, and transfer credits from other institutions. Attempted credit hours will be determined at the end of the drop period each term.

The student is placed on a Warning status the first term his/her academic transcript does not meet the standards of SAP with one exception. Students who fail to complete any courses within their first term of enrollment (a combination of Fs and Ws) will be placed on Suspension for the following term.

If progress during the Warning term is adequate to bring the cumulative record up to the standard, the Warning status is removed. If progress in the Warning term is not enough to bring the cumulative record up to standard, the student will receive a Suspension status and be ineligible for financial aid. This suspension includes scholarships, work-study, loans and grants.

A student can regain eligibility by completing at least one additional term of half-time work and

maintaining eligibility standards. This is an out of pocket expense. When this is accomplished, the student must notify the financial aid office and submit an academic plan agreement (see below). Financial aid is reinstated on an Academic Plan status. Progress is monitored and the Academic Plan status is extended as long as the student follows the academic plan each semester, until the cumulative record meets the standard or the student graduates. Alternately, the student may submit an appeal (see below).

Under these procedures, the student has the right to appeal if he/she believes extenuating circumstances prevented him/her from meeting required standards. Examples of extenuating circumstances would include prolonged illness for which medical attention was received, or extreme personally uncontrollable circumstances. Appeals must be in writing and include documentation of the circumstances that led to the student’s academic performance along with an academic plan agreement. Appeals should also address changes made to ensure future academic success. An Appeals Committee determines whether the appeal is approved. The decision of the committee is final and cannot be appealed further.

If an appeal is approved, and the student is mathematically capable of reaching a satisfactory status after one term of work, a student is placed on Probation. If the appeal is approved, but the student is mathematically incapable of reaching a satisfactory status after one term of work, the student is placed on Academic Plan status. Students on Probation must reach satisfactory status after one term of work or they will go on Suspension. Academic Plan students must follow the academic plan until their cumulative record meets the standard or the student graduates. If a student on an Academic Plan has a term completion rate of 75% or higher and a term GPA of 2.0, the Academic Plan status will be extended. If a student on an Academic Plan has a term completion rate of less than 75% or a term GPA of less than 2.0, or both, he/she will be placed on Suspension.

Federal regulations stipulate that students must complete their educational program in a reasonable length of time, which is defined as no more than 150% of the credit hours required for graduation in that program, regardless of major changes. For example, if a student is working towards a Liberal Arts-AA, which is 62 credit hours; he or she can receive aid up to 150% of the credits for that program, which is 93 credit hours. Once a student has exceeded 93 earned credits, he/she will be placed on suspension. All transfer credits are included in the earned credits including those earned as part of another degree or diploma. Students have the right to appeal the suspension as noted above. To continue to receive financial aid, they must follow the academic plan. Their academic plan may only contain courses that are required for their program. Students will be warned of this status at 125% of the credits required for graduation in their program. Students can contact the One Stop Office with questions regarding SAP.

## References

Federal regulations, HEA Sec. 484(c), §668.16, 668.34

## Definitions

Term	Definition
Term 1	

Term 2	
Term 3	
Term 4	

## Revision Log

Version Number	Date Approved	Approved by	Brief Description of Change
1	5/22/2017	Jon Buse, Vice President, Student Services	
2		Cabinet	Procedure template 9/25/2019