

# Appealing Ineligibility for Financial Aid

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Students suspended from receiving financial aid for not meeting required Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) guidelines, may appeal a suspension if unusual or extenuating circumstances contributed to their failure to meet the guidelines. If the appeal is granted, students are placed on SAP Probation status and are allowed to receive financial aid for the next semester.

Students may appeal the termination/suspension of financial aid by completing the Steps to Appeal. Appeals must be submitted with supporting documentation explaining any unusual circumstances that caused the student's academic progress to be less than required. Appeals should also include:

- a) reasons why minimum standards were not met (what happened), and
- b) reasons why eligibility should be reinstated instead of terminated (what changed).

Appeals must be submitted with supporting documentation explaining the unusual circumstances that caused their academic progress to be less than required. Federal law gives some examples where allowances might be made for mitigating circumstances; for instance, a serious illness or injury, or the death of a relative. An appeal may not be based upon the need for financial aid or a lack of knowledge that the assistance was in jeopardy. Failure of the student to adequately explain circumstances and actions may result in an appeal being denied.

## **Regaining Federal Student Aid Eligibility**

Except for when an appeal is granted for unusual or mitigating circumstances, students can reestablish eligibility only by taking action that brings them in compliance with the qualitative and quantitative components of the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards. A student for whom an SAP appeal is approved is expected to complete 100% of all attempted credit hours with a minimum 2.0 grade point average the semester following the approved appeal. Satisfactory progress must be demonstrated by the end of the specified probationary term before further aid can be awarded.

## **Financial Aid Academic Plan**

Students may successfully appeal a financial aid suspension, but have an academic situation making it mathematically impossible for them to regain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) eligibility for the next semester. Per Federal SAP guidelines, the Financial Aid Office may use discretion in whether to place such a student on a Financial Aid Academic Plan. This plan is designed to outline steps of progress that, if followed each semester by the student, would lead to regaining SAP eligibility within a specified time frame. If the student does not meet the progressive steps each semester, financial aid is immediately terminated. Students can reestablish eligibility only by taking action that brings them in compliance with the qualitative and quantitative components of the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress standards.