

Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing

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Reviewed: 9/2024	 Tina VanBuren, DNP, MSN, RN, CNS Director, School of Nursing	Office of Financial Aid and Administrative Committee

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines and outline the requirements for maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order to remain eligible for Title IV financial aid.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students enrolled at the Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing (JFMSON) who receive Title IV financial aid.

DEFINITIONS

Not applicable.

POLICY

In compliance with federal regulations, students at JFMSON must demonstrate Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) throughout their academic program to qualify for and continue receiving Title IV financial aid. SAP is assessed through both quantitative and qualitative measures, ensuring that students meet academic expectations and complete their program within the prescribed time frame.

Quantitative Requirements (Pace of Completion):

Students are required to complete a minimum of 24 credits per academic year, or 8 credits per term, to maintain eligibility for Title IV financial aid. Specific guidelines include:

- Students must complete 24 credits annually or 8 credits each term to meet the pace of completion for financial aid purposes.
- Credits earned through repeated coursework do not count toward the total number of credits required for SAP.
- Eligibility for Title IV financial aid is capped at a total of seven semesters during the second and third years of the program.
- Students who do not meet the required pace of completion will be ineligible for further financial aid until they regain the necessary credits to reestablish satisfactory progress.

Qualitative Requirements (Academic Performance):

To retain Title IV financial aid, students must achieve a minimum grade of "C" or higher in all courses:

- Students who fail to meet the academic performance requirement may be placed on financial aid probation.

- Students are permitted to repeat a term under probationary status if they fail to meet SAP for the first time. However, the course must be taken when it is next offered, and students must achieve a grade of 78 or higher during the probationary term to continue receiving Title IV financial aid.
- Students are limited to one probationary term with financial aid during the entire program.

Grade Level Advancement for Financial Aid Eligibility:

- Second-year students: Students must complete at least 24 credits of first-year coursework with a grade of 78 or higher to advance.
- Third-year students: Students must complete 31 credits of second-year coursework, as well as the 28 credits of first-year coursework, with a grade of "C" or higher to advance.

Mitigating Circumstances and Appeal Process:

Students who do not meet SAP due to mitigating circumstances may appeal for the reinstatement of financial aid by submitting a written appeal to the Financial Aid Office. The appeal must include:

1. A detailed explanation of the circumstances that affected the student's ability to meet SAP standards.
2. A description of corrective actions taken by the student to ensure future academic success.

Upon approval of the appeal, the student will be placed on financial aid probation and will remain eligible for Title IV financial aid during the probationary term. Students must meet SAP standards during this term to continue receiving financial aid in subsequent semesters.

Maximum Duration for Financial Aid Eligibility:

Students are eligible to receive Title IV financial aid for a maximum of seven semesters while enrolled in the second and third years of the program. Once this limit is reached, or if SAP standards are not met following a probationary term, students will no longer be eligible for further financial assistance under Title IV.

This policy is subject to an annual review to ensure compliance with Title IV regulations and the academic standards of JFMSON. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these requirements to maintain their financial aid eligibility throughout their academic program.

REFERENCES

U.S. Department of Education. (2023). Satisfactory academic progress (SAP) requirements for Title IV student aid programs. Retrieved from <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements/academic-progress>

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). (2022). Satisfactory academic progress (SAP): Federal regulations and institutional policies. Retrieved from <https://www.nasfaa.org>

REVIEW and APPROVAL

This policy is reviewed annually by the Office of Financial Aid and Administrative Committee.