



Satisfactory Academic Progress for Federal Student Aid (Grants, Loans, Work-Study)

Federal aid requires student to meet certain academic standards. This is called Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Failure to meet any of the three SAP standards below may result in loss of federal aid.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

1. Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA):

- a. Students must maintain certain Grade Point Average requirements based on all cumulative credit hours.
- b. All students, whether attending full-time or part-time, must have a 2.0 GPA by the end of the second year.
- c. All courses removed through academic amnesty (Fresh Start) will be counted in GPA.
- d. All courses taken, including remedial, will be counted in GPA.

2. Pace (Attempted Credit hours):

- a. Students must complete with a passing grade at least two-thirds (66%) of all cumulative attempted credit hours.
- b. The following grades are not considered passing grades: F, W, I.
- c. Transfer credits are counted as both attempted and completed courses.
- d. All courses removed through academic amnesty (Fresh Start) will be counted in pace.
- e. Federal aid will only cover courses required in your program of study. However, all courses taken will be counted toward your pace.

3. Maximum Time Frame:

- a. Students may attempt a maximum of 150% of the published credit hours for their current program.

Example:

If the program requires 60 credit hours to complete, the student may attempt 90 credit hours in this program. After 90 credit hours the student is no longer eligible for federal aid.

- b. SAP includes all courses the student has attempted at SUNY Erie, whether or not Title IV aid was received. SAP also includes all credits transferred from other colleges.

Associate Degree

Associate Degree Programs will be evaluated **once per year**, at the end of the Spring semester, or Summer if enrolled.

| Degree Credit Hours Attempted | 9-24 | 25-47 | 48-96 |
|-------------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Minimum Pace | 66% | 66% | 67% |
| Minimum Cumulative GPA | 1.5 | 1.75 | 2.0 |

Certificate Program

Certificate Programs will be evaluated at the end of every period of enrollment (Fall, Spring, Summer).

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------|-------|
| Degree Credit Hours Attempted | 9-24 | 25-45 |
| Minimum Pace | 66% | 67% |
| Minimum Cumulative GPA | 1.5 | 2.0 |

Loss of Eligibility

Students who fail to meet the requirements are no longer eligible for federal aid.

SAP Appeals Process

Students can appeal the loss of federal aid if there were events beyond their control.

Examples may include death of a close relative; injury or illness of the student, spouse, parents, or children; and other unusual circumstances. **Students may be granted only one appeal.**

If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed on Financial Aid Probation. At the end of the probation period the student must meet SAP or Academic Plan requirements. Failure to do so will result in loss of federal aid at SUNY Erie.

SAP Appeals must be submitted before the end of the semester for which you are appealing.

Academic Plan Requirements

A student may be considered for an Academic Plan if the following requirements are met during the probationary semester:

- a. Completed all courses with a passing grade. The following grades are not considered passing grades: F, W, I.
- b. Semester GPA is at least a 2.0

Students placed on an Academic Plan must meet these requirements each semester until they are back in compliance with SAP standards. Failure to do so will result in loss of federal aid at SUNY Erie.

Reestablishing aid eligibility

A student may take courses without federal aid in order to meet SAP standards.

Academic Amnesty (Fresh Start)

The federal aid programs make no provision for the concept of academic amnesty. A school must always include all courses taken when evaluating SAP, regardless of when they were taken.

Completed program, no degree

Federal aid covers only courses required for a student's program of study. Once these requirements are met the student is no longer eligible for federal aid.

Developmental Courses

Students may attempt a maximum of 30 credit hours of developmental courses.

Developmental coursework is not counted toward pace.

Incomplete Grades (I)

Incomplete grades in any class will be counted as attempted credits; however, they will not be counted toward completed credit hours. When the incomplete is changed to a letter grade, it will be counted toward completed hours. The student must notify the Office of Financial Aid of the grade change and request SAP recalculation.

Repeat Courses

Students may retake any previously passed course once. Courses failed on the first attempt may be retaken until passed. All attempts will be included in pace.