

Are You Ready for the New Rules on Satisfactory Academic Progress?

National Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators

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Financial Aid Administrators

Are You Ready for the New Rules on Satisfactory Academic Progress?

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Session Overview

- Changes to satisfactory academic progress (SAP) regulations that go into effective July 1, 2011
- Implementation options, including:
 - Appeals
 - Academic plans
 - Warning and probation statuses
- Questions and Answers

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SAP Changes

Placement in regulations

- Consolidation of all provisions related to required components of school's SAP policy with student eligibility SAP provisions in 668.34
- Policy components remain the same
 - Qualitative (typically GPA)
 - Quantitative, referred to as pace
 - Maximum time frame

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SAP Changes

Pace

- Must be constructed based on maximum timeframe
- Formula to calculate pace
 - Cumulative hours successfully completed divided by cumulative hours attempted
- Remedial coursework may be excluded
- Accepted transfer hours must be included

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SAP Changes: Appeals

- No change to appealable circumstances (death of relative, injury or illness of the student, or other special circumstances)
- Failure to meet qualitative standards, quantitative standards, and/or maximum time frame may be appealed

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SAP Changes: Appeals

- Student must explain why failed to make SAP and what has changed
- Appeal approval conditions
 - Student will be able to meet SAP after next payment period; or
 - An academic plan is developed
- Reminder: school is not required to accept appeals

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SAP Changes

Frequency of Evaluation

- For programs shorter than an academic year, must measure SAP at the end of each payment period
- For programs longer an academic year, must measure SAP at the end of each payment period or at least annually to correspond to the end of a payment period

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SAP Changes

- Additional flexibility for schools who check SAP at the end of every payment period
- Standardized definitions
 - Financial aid warning
 - Financial aid probation

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SAP Changes

Financial aid warning

- Assigned automatically to a student who is not making SAP
- Allows student to continue to receive Title IV aid for one payment period

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SAP Changes

Financial aid probation

- Assigned to a student who is not making SAP, and has had an appeal approved by the school
- Allows student to continue to receive Title IV aid

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SAP Changes: Warning and Probation

- Only schools that evaluate SAP at the end of each payment period may use financial aid warning status
- Student on financial aid warning status may continue to receive Title IV aid for one payment period

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SAP Changes: Warning and Probation

Any school may use financial aid probation status, but only after student has appealed

- Appeal conditions are permitted
- Student on financial aid probation status may continue to receive Title IV aid for one payment period
- After one payment period, student must be making SAP or meeting conditions of academic plan

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Implementation Considerations

Frequency of evaluation

- Ability to use financial aid warning
- Staff resources
- Availability of grades
- Benefits of early intervention
- Use of categories

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Implementation Considerations

- Pace
 - Graduated standards still acceptable
- Repeated coursework
 - Can be included in enrollment status except:
 - More than one repetition if previously passed
 - Any repetition of a previously passed course due to the student failing other coursework

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SAP Appeals

Considerations

- Available institutional resources
- Institutional goals and mission
- Number of allowable appeals
- Nature and needs of student body

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Use of Academic Plans

Considerations

- Buy-in from other institutional offices
- Available resources
- System of monitoring compliance
- Nature and needs of student body

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Other Implementation Considerations

- System changes
- Consumer information and information in campus publications and on website regarding SAP
- Counseling
- Effective date and transition
- Coordination with institutional SAP policy for non-Title IV aid recipients

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Are You Ready for the New Rules on Satisfactory Academic Progress?

Questions?

Please send your questions to:

askregs@nasfaa.org

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