



Office of Financial Aid

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## Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Effective Fall 2020, Spring 2021 and Summer 2021

### STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

- The University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UA Little Rock) is committed to ensuring students' academic success. The Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended requires UA Little Rock to establish a policy that will enforce academic progress standards to ensure students receiving federal financial aid are making timely progress to complete their intended program of study.
- **Academic records for all undergraduate and graduate students will be reviewed after each period of enrollment** (fall, spring and summer) to confirm that students are making satisfactory academic progress.
- **Academic records for all Law School students will be evaluated only once each academic year, in August.**
- In order to meet the conditions for satisfactory academic progress, a student must meet the minimum requirements for *all three* academic progress standards (pace of progression, maximum time frame and cumulative grade point average) after *each* evaluation.
- Federal financial aid recipients will be notified if any of the three academic progress standards are not met.

#### Requirement 1: Pace of Progression (required credit hour completion)

Students must successfully complete 67% of UA Little Rock overall attempted credit hours (including accepted transfer hours) to stay on pace to complete their degree. Decimal places of .5 or above will be rounded up. Please refer to the *Important Notes* section for more information about credit hours. The following formula is used to monitor pace of progression:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Overall Earned Credit Hours (includes all UA Little Rock earned hours and accepted transfer hours)}}{\text{Number of UA Little Rock Overall Attempted Credit Hours + Transfer Hours Accepted by UA Little Rock}}$$

#### Requirement 2: Maximum Time Frame

Maximum time frame defines the total number of attempted/earned credit hours that stop federal financial aid eligibility.

Classification	Maximum Number of Credit Hours Attempted or Earned
Undergraduate	180
Post-Baccalaureate	70
Graduate/Doctoral/EDS	135
Law	120

#### Requirement 3: Grade Point Average (GPA)

Classification	Required Cumulative UA Little Rock GPA
Undergraduate and Post- Baccalaureate	2.00
Graduate and Doctoral	3.00
Law	2.30

## IMPORTANT NOTES

- **All** UA Little Rock coursework, including any courses for which the student received Academic Clemency, is included when calculating whether the student meets minimum SAP standards.
- Incomplete grades, withdrawals, no credits, and missing grades count the same as an “F” grade earned in a class when evaluating hour completion.
- Courses taken for audit do not count as financial aid enrollment hours, but are included in the total number of attempted credit hours.
- Developmental courses will count in attempted and earned credit hours, but will not calculate into the GPA.
- In accordance with UA Little Rock’s [repeated course policy for all undergraduates](#), all attempted credit hours will be considered in calculating the attempted and earned hours.
- Repeated coursework [may not be eligible](#) for federal aid funds.
- Transfer credit hours accepted by UA Little Rock will be included in calculating both cumulative attempted credit hours and cumulative earned credit hours.

## SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) FAILURES

### Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Warning:

If a student fails to meet SAP standards, an academic warning will be given. Federal financial aid eligibility will continue for one additional semester. The student should create a plan for improving academic performance and for meeting SAP standards by the end of the next semester of enrollment. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisor for assistance.

#### Note the following exceptions to the SAP Warning status:

1. After students are notified they have met or exceeded the maximum time frame, they will not receive another warning status, regardless of their pace of progression or cumulative GPA. Once the maximum number of credit hours attempted/earned has been reached, all future federal financial aid will be canceled.
2. Academic progress for law students is evaluated annually in August. Law students who fail to meet satisfactory academic progress standards at the time of evaluation will be ineligible for federal aid for future semesters. No warning status will be given.

### Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Cancellation:

## SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) APPEALS

A student with extenuating circumstances may appeal cancellation of federal financial aid eligibility. The appeal must be typewritten and include appropriate documentation to explain and verify:

1. The exceptional circumstances that caused the failure to meet SAP standards;
2. What has changed that will allow SAP standards to be met in the next semester of enrollment; and
3. How the student will complete academic studies by submitting a copy of the student’s degree plan.

The appeal will be reviewed by the UA Little Rock Financial Aid Appeals Committee. The committee’s decision will be to either approve or deny the appeal. If the appeal is approved, it will be approved with either *probation* or an *academic plan*. The committee’s decision is final and may not be appealed.

### Academic appeal approved with a status of PROBATION

- The student will be able to meet SAP standards by the end of the next semester.
- The student will receive one additional semester of federal financial aid eligibility.
- Failure to meet SAP standards at the end of the probation semester will result in cancellation of financial aid.

### Academic appeal approved with a status of ACADEMIC PLAN

- The student will be given an academic plan with the requirement to meet SAP standards by a specific point in time.
- The Financial Aid Appeals Committee will create the academic plan in complement with the student’s degree plan.
- The academic plan will be customized for each student. The plan will include performance standards for successful completion of the student’s course of study.
- Adherence to the academic plan will be monitored at the end of each semester.
- Students who successfully complete the academic plan requirements each term will continue to be eligible for federal aid until they achieve minimum SAP standards.
- Failure to meet the academic plan requirements will result in cancellation of financial aid.

## REGAINING ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

To regain federal financial aid eligibility after SAP cancellation, a student must meet *all* of the following criteria:

1. Not exceed the maximum time frame;
2. Complete at least 67% of the attempted cumulative hours as calculated; and
3. Achieve the required UA Little Rock cumulative GPA.