

Graduate Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

The United States Department of Education mandates that Frostburg State University has an established Satisfactory Academic Progress policy for financial aid recipients. The policy must be qualitative and quantitative. The policy must be at least as strict as the academic policy governing students not receiving financial aid. If a student completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), he or she is subject to these regulations.

Qualitative Requirement (GPA)

Frostburg requires graduate students to have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average to graduate. The SAP standards for graduate students mirror the graduation requirements. Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average in order to continue to receive financial aid.

Students need to be aware that they could be required to appeal to their program coordinator to remain enrolled at FSU and to the Financial Aid Office to maintain financial aid eligibility.

Quantitative Standards

Minimum Passing Requirement

Students must complete 67% of all courses attempted including courses transferred to FSU in order to meet SAP regulations. To determine the completed average, a student needs to add all attempted hours (including credits transferred to FSU) then add all the hours of completed courses (including credits transferred to FSU) then divide the completed credit hours by the attempted credit hours.

6 completed credit hours / 12 attempted credit hours = 50% completion rate

Maximum time to completion

FSU graduate students cannot **attempt** above 150% of the total number of credits needed to earn a degree. Due to graduate programs requiring a different number of credits per program, students will need to calculate this rule based on their program of study.

Attempted credits include the following grades A, B, C, D, F, P, N, FX, W, WF, NC, NR, CS, I, AP, CE, CL, IB, PT and all transfer credits.

Completed credits include the following grades A, B, C, D, P, AP, CE, CL, IB, PT and all transfer credits.

All students will be evaluated at the end of each semester (summer, fall, intersession and spring). Students will need to review the progress rules and their transcript when making enrollment decisions.

Frostburg will now be required to evaluate and measure students by standards established in the federal law. Each student will have one of four statuses:

1. Meets all components of the SAP standards (eligible to receive financial aid)
2. Academic Warning (explanation below)
3. Probation (explanation below)
4. Does not Meet Standards (not eligible to receive financial aid)

Academic Warning

Students who **do not meet standards for the first time in their academic career** will be placed on **academic warning**. A warning is assigned to a student who fails to meet SAP but is allowed to continue to receive Title IV aid for **one** additional payment period (semester).

Probation

Students who do not meet SAP standards after one payment period on Academic Warning will be denied financial aid. However, students will then have the right to appeal. If the appeal is granted, the student will be placed on **probation** and continue to receive Title IV aid for **one** additional payment period.

Appeals will be granted for the following circumstances:

1. Students who demonstrate the following extenuating circumstances: death of a relative, injury or illness of the student, or other special circumstances;
2. The school has determined that the student will be able to meet SAP standards after the subsequent payment period or;
3. An academic plan had been established by the student and/or his or her advisor to meet graduation requirements and the student continues to follow the academic plan.

Students will not be allowed to appeal each semester if they do not meet SAP standards. Once a student is on probation he or she must meet SAP standards the next semester or meet the requirements of the previously developed academic plan to regain financial aid eligibility. The only exception to this rule is if a different extenuating circumstance occurs. Please contact the Financial Aid Office if you feel the exception applies to your situation.

The Financial Aid Office will evaluate each student individually to see if meeting standards is ever a possibility. If a student will never be able to meet one of the standards listed above, the student will be denied financial aid indefinitely at FSU.