

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Maintaining Eligibility

Federal guidelines for the continued receipt of student financial assistance funds require that standards of satisfactory academic progress (SAP) be applied to all students who are enrolled at the university. These standards must be equal or stricter than the standards required of students who are not receiving financial assistance. MUSC is required by federal law to institute standards of satisfactory progress for students receiving Title IV assistance.

MUSC students receiving financial aid are required to be in good standing and maintain satisfactory academic progress. To be eligible to receive financial aid, students must comply with the following conditions.

Frequency of Monitoring

Academic progress is reviewed at the end of each semester the student is enrolled.

Qualitative Measure of Progress

- Students must have a 2.0 GPA in the term being reviewed. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a letter of warning to the student that he/she has been placed on financial aid probation. A student on Financial Aid Probation must maintain a 2.0 GPA the next academic term or financial aid will be withheld for the next enrollment period.
- For professional schools that use a nontraditional grading system (one not based upon grade point average) to assess satisfactory completion of course work, a similar nontraditional approach will be used to measure qualitative progress for continuing financial eligibility. If a student enrolls only in P/NP (pass/no pass) courses during a particular term, any no-pass grade will constitute non-satisfactory academic progress for financial aid purposes.
- To comply with federal regulations, students who do not fail courses but must repeat coursework or take re-exams during summer terms are ineligible for financial aid for the repeat coursework.
- Students who are required to repeat an academic year due to deficiencies are ineligible for the first semester of the repeat year. The grade point average will be reviewed at the end of the first semester of the repeated year to ensure that a “satisfactory” grade point average of at least a 2.0 (or nontraditional equivalent as described above) has been met for the term. Aid is reinstated for subsequent terms of enrollment if work is satisfactorily completed.
- Students who fail to pass Part I of National Boards in the College of Medicine have the option to enroll in a remedial course of study as a full-time student and continue to receive financial aid or be placed on leave of absence. If placed on a leave of absence, a student is ineligible for financial aid until satisfactory passage of boards and he/she is allowed to begin clinical rotations.

Time Frame for Completing Degree Objectives

- Students are given 3 years to complete a 2 year curriculum, 4 years to complete a 3 year curriculum, 5 years to complete a 4 year curriculum, and 6 years to complete a 5 year curriculum. Students who are enrolled in less than full-time course-work have the years of eligibility prorated accordingly.

Appeal Procedures

- Students who fail to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards may appeal the suspension of their financial aid assistance funds. Letters of appeal should be based on mitigating circumstances that impacted negatively on the student's ability to meet the required standards. Examples of such circumstances are: 1) death/prolonged illness of an immediate family member; 2) medical illness (student) that created undue hardship; 3) losses due to a natural disaster (i.e. hurricanes, storms, etc...)

Steps to Appeal the Process

- Students may appeal a decision due to extenuating circumstances. The student must submit a written letter of appeal to the Office of Financial Aid, Student Harper Center, 45 Courtenay Drive, Charleston, SC 29425.
- Students must submit their appeal to the Office of Financial Aid no later than thirty (30) days after the official notification of his/her financial aid status.
- Students must attach all necessary documents to the written appeal request.
- The appeal will be reviewed by the university Financial Aid Committee within 2 weeks of receiving the request and all necessary documents.
- The student may appear before the Committee to appeal if so desired.
- The student will be notified in writing of the decision to reinstate or deny the financial aid eligibility.
- If the student is determined eligible for reinstatement of financial aid, he/she will be considered for aid available at the time of reinstatement.