



Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Eligibility for Federal Student Aid (FSA) funds require a student make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) towards earning a degree or certificate. The Financial Aid Office at Northern Essex Community College reviews SAP at the end of each term; fall, spring and summer. A student's entire academic history is reviewed for the purposes of determining SAP, including credits not paid for by Financial Aid. To be considered, as making satisfactory academic progress, students must meet a minimum grade point average requirement, completed credit requirements and maximum timeframe requirements.

STANDARD 1: Qualitative Standard: grade point average (GPA)

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

NOTE: Eligibility for graduation from all Associate Degree programs and Certificates requires a minimum GPA of 2.0 and completion of all stated program requirements (See Graduation Requirements of the Academic Policies for more details).

STANDARD 2: Quantitative Standard: pace (Completion)

The pace at which a student progresses through a program is calculated by dividing the total number of credits the student has successfully completed by the total number of credits attempted. All periods of enrollment count when assessing progress, including all credits transferred into NECC. A student must successfully complete (with letter grades A, B, C, or D) two-thirds or 67% of all credits attempted.

EXAMPLE: A student who has attempted three (3), 3 credit courses for a total of 9 credits must successfully complete 6 credits (6/9 or 2/3rds) to meet this standard. A student who has attempted 10 credits but only completes 6 credits (6/10 or 60%) would not meet this standard.

Attempted Credits: All credits in which a student has registered are considered attempted credits whether or not the course is completed. Repeated courses as well as grades of F, course withdrawals (W), courses from which a student has been dropped for non-participation (NW), and courses that are not completed (I) at the end of the semester are included as attempted.

Incomplete Credits (I): Credits which are attempted but not completed (I) are included as attempted credits. If the course remains incomplete by the end of the following term (the end of spring semester for fall classes and the end of fall semester for spring classes and summer classes) the class is coded as a failure (F).

Repeated Credits: These credits are included in the calculation for both attempted and earned credits. Students are allowed to take a course a maximum of two times.

Transfer Credits: Credits from other colleges that were accepted by NECC are counted as attempted and earned.

Standard 3: Maximum Timeframe (150% Rule). Students receiving financial aid must complete their program within 150% of the published length of the educational program. Part-time attendance counts in the maximum timeframe calculation. Students who do not complete their program within this timeframe are no longer eligible to receive financial aid. Up to 30 developmental credits and all ESL courses are exempt from this requirement.

Transfer Credits: All transfer credits that have been or could be applied to the student's current program of study are considered in calculating the maximum timeframe requirements for the program.

Program changes: All attempted and earned credits (including grades of F, W, NW, I and repeats) that have been or could be applied to the new program of study are considered in calculating the maximum timeframe requirements for the new program.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Review

A student's SAP status is updated at the end of each term (Fall, Spring and Summer) based on the following standards:

Financial Aid Warning

Any student in a degree or certificate program who fails to meet Standards 1 and/or 2 of the Academic Standards Policy for the first time is formally placed on Financial Aid Warning, and will receive a letter in the mail/email informing them that they are on Warning. A student will be allowed to enroll in an additional semester to improve the standard(s) they did not meet. Students who are placed on Financial Aid Warning are eligible to receive Financial Aid during the warning semester. Students will be referred to Academic Coaching for additional support but it is not required.

Financial Aid Suspension

If standards 1 and/or 2 are not met after a student is placed on Financial Aid Warning, or a student cannot complete their program within the maximum timeframe requirement the student is placed on Financial Aid Suspension. A student placed on Financial Aid Suspension is no longer eligible to receive any form of financial aid (loans, grants or scholarships) to cover the cost of their program. The student will receive a letter in the mail/email with the information that one or more of the three standards have not been met. A student may appeal their Financial Aid Suspension.

The Appeal Process:

Please see appeal form on <https://www.necc.mass.edu/afford/financial-aid-policies/>.