

# Financial Aid

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

### **What is Satisfactory Academic Progress?**

The SLCC Financial Aid Office is required to have a Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy. It must apply to all periods of enrollment whether or not you received aid during those periods of enrollment. In addition, the policy must address your qualitative progress, quantitative progress, maximum time frame and your reasonable progression towards completing a degree.

### **What is the qualitative measure and how is it determined?**

The quality of your work is determined using your Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA). You must maintain a CGPA of 2.0 or higher. A 2.0 is equivalent to a "C" grade.

### **What is the quantitative measure and how is it determined?**

You must complete at least 70% of the total coursework you attempt at SLCC. For example, if you take 10 credit hours, you must have valid grades in 7 of those hours. Valid grades are "A", "B", "C" and "D". "E" grades are considered invalid when determining coursework completed.

### **What do you mean by reasonable progression towards my degree?**

Reasonable progression toward your degree is shown by completing the courses for which you register. If you drop classes each semester, after receiving aid, it may be determined you are not progressing at a reasonable rate towards graduation. This is typically determined by a Financial Aid Advisor and the Director.

### **When is my progress checked?**

Satisfactory progress standards are reviewed at the end of each semester. The standards are measured based on your cumulative history at SLCC. For

example, your CGPA is reviewed as is your cumulative completion rate. Progress can only be checked after all your grades are posted. If an instructor fails to post your grade, progress can not be determined and aid will not be disbursed for future terms until the missing grade is posted.

### **What happens if I don't make satisfactory academic progress?**

If you are found to be below one of the above academic progress standards, you will be placed on probation for a semester. During the probation term, you would retain eligibility and receive the funds set aside for you. At the end of the semester, you need to meet both the qualitative and quantitative standards or aid will not be available until the standards are met.

### **Can I appeal if I don't meet my probation?**

Yes, if you do not meet the satisfactory progress standards after your probationary semester, there is an appeal process available. An appeal requires you to document unusual circumstances which led to your being below the standards. A committee meets once each week to review appeals and determine if the circumstances warrant a longer probation period.

### **What is the maximum time frame for my degree?**

You should complete your degree within 150% of the published credit hours required to graduate. For example, if your degree requires 60 hours for graduation, you should meet all graduation requirements by 90 hours. This allows you time to complete pre-requisite courses.

### **What if I can't graduate within the maximum time frame?**

An Appeal for Continuation of Funding is available for students who may need to exceed the maximum time frame. This appeal process requires students to submit a statement explaining why they must exceed the 150% and to meet with their Academic Advisor to determine what courses are needed. This information is returned to the Financial Aid Office for review. A committee reviews these appeals to determine if additional hours can be granted.