

NOTICE: Revised federal student aid regulations about eligibility for federal Title IV financial aid require students to meet somewhat stricter standards for satisfactory academic progress (SAP). You must meet or exceed these revised standards with the results of your courses at the end of the fall 2011 semester in order to be eligible for federal and state financial aid for the spring 2012 semester.

There are three standards of satisfactory academic progress:

1. Cumulative grade point average (GPA)
2. Cumulative completion rate = Number of credits passed (completed) divided by the number of credits attempted.
3. Maximum timeframe = total cumulative credits attempted.

Revised SAP Standards

1. **Minimum Cumulative GPA:**

- After attempting 12 credit hours: 1.8
- After *attempting* 30 credit hours: 1.9
- After *attempting* 45 credit hours: 2.0

2. **Minimum Cumulative Completion Rate:**

- After attempting 12 credits, pass 60%
- After attempting 30 credits, pass 63%
- After attempting 45 credits, pass 66%

3. **Maximum Timeframe:** This standard remains the same. Supposing they meet or exceed the minimum GPA and completion rate standards, students are allowed to receive financial aid for up to 150% of the number of credits required to complete their degree or certificate. For example, students in an associate degree program that requires 64 credits are eligible for financial aid for up to 96 credits (64 x 1.5). Students in a certificate program that requires 30 credits are eligible for financial aid for up to 45 credits (30 x 1.5)

Current SAP Standards

1. **Minimum Cumulative GPA:**

- After attempting 12 credit hours: 1.8
- After *earning* 30 *quality* credit hours: 1.9
- After *earning* 45 *quality* credit hours: 2.0

2. **Minimum Cumulative Completion Rate:**

- After attempting 12 credits, pass 60% of all courses attempted

What happens if I don't meet these standards?

The first time you fail to meet the GPA and completion rate standards, you are on **financial aid warning** for the next semester. Before you can receive your financial aid for that semester, you will have to sign a document acknowledging that you understand you must improve your academic performance by the end of that semester or risk being ineligible for financial aid. (Students who exceed the maximum timeframe are not given a warning period. They are ineligible when they reach the 150% number of credits but may appeal as explained below.)

If you fail to improve to the required standards after being on financial aid warning, you will be on **financial aid suspension**, that is, *you will be ineligible for federal and state financial aid*. HOWEVER, you may appeal your suspension by explaining and documenting the extenuating circumstances that prevented you from being successful and by explaining how your circumstances will be different in the future. You will also submit a draft academic plan for your next two periods of enrollment that show how you will be able to meet the standards of satisfactory academic progress.

If your appeal is approved, we will submit your **academic plan** to your academic advisor for his/her review. S/he will revise it if necessary and then sign it. If your advisor makes any revisions, you will need to initial that copy to show that you are aware of the revisions.

If your appeal is denied and you want to return to VU with financial aid, you can either self pay for at least one semester or attend another school in order to transfer credits back to VU. In either case, after you have grades available, you will have to submit another appeal, a copy of your grades (unofficial copy is sufficient), and another draft academic plan. If your grades along with your academic plan show that it is possible for you to reach at least the minimum standards of satisfactory academic progress, your appeal may be granted. If your appeal is granted, you would be eligible for aid on a probation status as long as you meet your academic plan. *Simply stopping out a semester or two is not sufficient for regaining financial aid eligibility. Appeals based on stopping out for longer periods of time without academic work elsewhere will be considered.*

Additional details:

- Developmental courses are counted as attempted courses, although they do not contribute to the GPA.
- Courses with a grade of W, WF, or WN are counted as attempted courses.
- Courses with grade of I (incomplete) or RD (report delayed) are counted as attempted courses but are not counted as passed completed courses until the final passing grade is available. In cases where a course with grade of I or RD makes a difference in whether an appeal of suspension can be approved or not, we will have to wait on completion of the course to render a decision on the appeal.
- Repeated courses are counted as attempted courses.
- Transfer courses are counted as both attempted and passed courses for completion rate (pace) purposes. For checking GPA progress, i.e., whether a student has to meet the 1.8, 1.9 or 2.0 standard, until a student has attempted 12 credits at VU, we will not count the transfer credits as attempted credits. After the student has attempted 12 credits at VU, we will use the total number of credits attempted, including transfer credits, to determine the GPA expectation.

For appeals on the maximum timeframe standard (150%) some exceptions might make it possible for the university to provide federal financial aid for additional credits. The university may exclude:

- Up to 30 credits of developmental courses attempted;
- Credits transferred from another college or university which do not meet requirements for the degree or certificate toward which the student is working at Vincennes University.
- Credits earned more than five years ago from the time of initial consideration of appeal if there has been a break in enrollment of at least two consecutive academic semesters.
- Credits earned, while the student was still in high school, that were undertaken because the courses were required for the high school diploma but do not meet requirements for the degree or certificate at Vincennes University.
- Credits earned in completion of one degree or certificate Vincennes University which do not meet requirements for a second or subsequent degree or certificate.