

# SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) CRITERIA

Federal regulations require that all financial aid recipients maintain satisfactory academic progress in a program of study leading to a degree or certificate. **Satisfactory progress includes all previous academic history**, even if the student did not receive financial aid. Satisfactory progress standards are calculated at the end of each semester, including the summer, and the results are sent to the student's TC Email. Although the Financial Aid Office attempts to notify all students of their financial aid SAP status, failure to receive notice does not affect the calculated status and is not a reason to appeal.

## What is considered in the SAP calculation?

- All courses attempted, including remedial/developmental, withdrawals, repeated courses, and transfer hours (regardless of grade assigned) are counted in the hours attempted
- Grades of A, B, C, and D will be considered hours attempted and completed
- Grades of F, I, W, and XF will be counted in hours attempted only
- Grades of F and I are counted in the GPA

NOTE: Financial aid funds can be used to cover **Remedial/Developmental** hours only up to a maximum of 30 hours. Once a student has exceeded this limit, he or she will be able to enroll in remedial/developmental classes, but they must pay out of pocket for their tuition and fees.

### ❖ **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

Students must maintain a **cumulative 2.0 GPA** or higher on all hours attempted at Temple College, including past semesters. The last grade of a repeated course will replace the original attempt(s) in the GPA.

### ❖ **Completion Rate**

Students must successfully complete at least **67%** of all past and present courses attempted (includes transfer courses, remedial courses, and grades of F and W). All repeated courses will be counted toward attempted and completed hours.

### ❖ **Maximum Timeframe**

Students receiving financial aid must complete their degree or certificate within 150% of the hours required for their program of study. The College's computer system automatically places students on Financial Aid Suspension once they have attempted 93 or more hours, including transfer hours. Some program's 150% limit may be less than 93 hours.

## Consequences of not maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress:

**Financial Aid Warning** – Students failing to meet the GPA or Completion Rate SAP standards will be placed on Warning status for one semester. The student will remain eligible for any financial aid for which he or she has qualified. Students placed on Financial Aid Warning are strongly encouraged to meet with a Financial Aid Advisor and an Academic Advisor to develop an achievement plan that will assist the student in the successful completion of the Warning semester.

**Financial Aid Suspension** – Students failing to meet the GPA or Completion Rate SAP standards again at the end of their warning period will be suspended from receiving financial aid. Students will be able to enroll and attend classes, but they must pay out of pocket for their tuition and fees.

**Maximum Timeframe Suspension** – Students who fail to meet the Maximum Timeframe standard will be immediately placed on Maximum Timeframe Suspension and will lose financial aid eligibility. Students will be able to enroll and attend classes, but they must pay out of pocket for their tuition and fees.

## APPEAL PROCESS

Please see the Financial Aid website for appeal deadline dates.

Students who fail to meet the financial aid SAP standards may submit a signed Financial Aid Appeal Request Form available on the TC Website if there are unusual and mitigating circumstances that contributed to their failure to meet the standards. Students must provide an explanation and documentation for all grades of F or W received throughout any of his or her

semesters at Temple College. **Acceptable unusual and mitigating circumstances** include, but are not limited to, a death in the immediate family, medical conditions, hospitalizations, or other situations beyond the student's control. Withdrawal from a class or classes to maintain a higher GPA, the classes are not what one expected, or not being prepared for college are NOT unusual or mitigating circumstances and will not be considered. All situations **MUST** be fully documented, which may include supporting letters from counselors, doctors, ministers, and other appropriate third parties.

**FEDERAL REGULATIONS REQUIRE DOCUMENTATION!!** Incomplete appeal request forms **will not** be reviewed and will delay the appeal process.

### **Maximum Timeframe Appeal Process**

Students who already have a baccalaureate degree or have attempted over 93 hours and wish to receive financial aid must submit a signed Financial Aid Appeal Request Form available on the TC Website. The student must provide a copy of the degree plan he or she is pursuing signed by an academic advisor. For these appeals to be considered, the student must have at least a 2.0 GPA and 67% completion rate, and provide an explanation and documentation for all grades of F or W received throughout any of his or her semesters at Temple College. Students who are approved are expected to take only the courses shown as still needed on their degree plan. Taking coursework outside the degree plan will cause the next appeal to be denied.

**Initial Appeals** are reviewed by a FA Appeal Committee member. The student will be notified of the Committee's decision via their TC email. During peak times, this process may take a few days. Appeals are generally NOT APPROVED, and students should make other payment arrangements while waiting on the Committee's decision or risk being dropped from their coursework. **Most appeals are denied due to lack of documentation.**

**Second Appeal:** Students who have their initial appeal denied may make an appointment to meet before the FA Committee if the student wants to contest the denial. In general, an appeal at this level should include additional information and/or documentation that was not presented as part of the initial appeal. The student will be notified of the Committee's decision via their TC email.

**Final Appeal:** If the FA Committee still denies the appeal and the student feels that he or she was not treated fairly under the policy, the student may make an appointment to see the Financial Aid Director. The decision of the Financial Aid Director is final.

### **Appeal Approvals and Re-Establishing Eligibility**

Students can re-establish their financial aid eligibility by one of the following methods:

- Being placed on a financial aid warning period and meeting SAP standards within one semester;
- Successfully appealing and being placed on financial aid probation and meeting SAP standards at the end of one semester;
- Successfully appealing and being placed on an academic plan, and meeting SAP standards according to the terms of that academic plan; or
- Paying out of pocket for classes and earning enough grades and/or credits in those classes that would allow the student to regain SAP standards on his or her own. These students must submit another appeal to have his or her SAP status reevaluated.

### **Learning Assistance**

- *Tutoring is available through the Education Assistance Center (EAC). In addition, tutors are available in many other areas e.g., math lab, computer lab. The EAC also offers workshops to improve learning skills.*
- *A learning frameworks course, such as EDUC-1300 or PSYC-1300, is another excellent way to improve academic proficiency. The course can be taken as a regular weekly class.*
- *Students with documented disabilities can receive classroom accommodations for additional learning assistance. Contact the Student Accommodation Coordinator (254-298-8335) for more information.*
- *Student Success Coaches are available to assist with class scheduling, and providing information about all college resources. For more information please contact 254-298-8501.*