

## **Policies for Good Academic Standing**

### **Undergraduate Programs: BS**

College of Health Professions & College of Nursing

Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Eligibility

Federal and State student aid programs require that students make satisfactory progress toward completion of their program of study in order to be eligible for assistance.

There are four parts to the determination of satisfactory academic progress:

A minimum grade point average (GPA) that must be achieved,

A minimum number of credits that must be earned,

A minimum number or percentage of courses that must be completed,

A maximum time frame in which the program must be completed.

The exact GPA, number of credits earned and percentage of courses that must be completed are outlined below for each payment period (federal aid) or semester (state aid). Also, the maximum time frame for each degree program is outlined.

By the end of the second year of study at Upstate Medical University, all students must have a "C" average (2.0) or standards consistent with graduation requirements in order to remain eligible for federal student aid. Upstate Medical University recognizes that advancement toward a degree is progressive. Students who meet the standards outlined here will be considered to have achieved standards consistent with graduation requirements.

It's important for students to be aware of the effect of their academic progress on eligibility for financial aid. Decisions to withdraw from courses, drop below full time enrollment status, or other changes may negatively impact financial aid. In addition, the professional nature of the curriculums at Upstate Medical University limits flexibility to modify programs of study. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with the Financial Aid Office BEFORE withdrawing from courses or making other changes in their academic program.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

All students are considered to be making satisfactory progress in their first payment period or academic term of enrollment in the College. To maintain satisfactory academic progress, the following standards must be met at the beginning of each subsequent payment period or academic term.

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#### **NOTES:**

\*For BS degree students, accumulated credits includes prerequisites taken prior to admission. Calculation of GPA and the percentage of courses completed will be based on coursework taken at the Upstate Medical University or accepted for academic credit by the College.

\*\*Grade Point Averages will be calculated according to the approved academic policy of the student's College, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

\*\*\*The percentage of courses completed is calculated by comparing the number of courses completed (i.e. final grade other than W, WF or 1) to 12 credits (minimum full time study) or 6 credits (part time study).

\*\*\*\*For TAP eligibility will be reviewed based on the chart shown under New York State Student Aid Policies and APTS part time enrollment will be counted as part of the next payment period.

#### Maximum Time Frame for Program Completion

Federal Student Aid Effective July 1, 1994, the maximum time frame for completion of an undergraduate program of study was limited by Federal legislation to no more than 150% of the published program length for a full time student. The published program length is defined by the Financial Aid Office as the number of credit hours required for graduation from each eligible undergraduate programs.

Student meet this requirement so long as the number of credit hours attempted at the Upstate Medical University, or approved for transfer to the Upstate Medical University from other institutions, does not exceed 150% of the number of credit hours required for graduation from the academic program. When calculating credit hours attempted, all courses, including those repeated or in which the student received grades of W, WF, or I must be counted. The only exceptions will be those courses dropped during the add/drop period at the beginning of the academic term.

As an example, the AAS Respiratory Care program requires that a student earn 77 credit hours in order to graduate. Under the maximum time frame rule, a student may attempt no more than 115.5 credit hours while pursuing this degree. If this limit is exceeded, the student will lose eligibility for Federal Student Financial Aid. Students who lose eligibility have the right to appeal.

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State Student Aid New York State does not impose a maximum time frame for completion of the degree program. Students may receive up to the maximum number of payments so long as they continue to meet the other satisfactory academic progress requirements.

#### Part Time Study

The Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards for students enrolled part-time will be modified as follows:

Federal Student Aid Accumulated credits: the student must have earned the number of credits shown for the previous term, plus one half of the increased number of credits expected. For example, in order for an AAS student to be eligible for the third payment period, they must have accumulated the 3 credits that must be earned by the beginning of the second payment period plus 3 credits by the beginning of the second payment period (one half of the difference between the second and third payments), for a total of 6 credits.

Completed courses: The percentage of completed courses will be calculated based on half time enrollment (i.e. 6 credits) rather than full time enrollment (12 credits).

Minimum GPA requirements will be the same as for full time students.

State Student Aid Accumulated credits: The number of credits earned during periods of part time study will be added together with credits earned in subsequent terms.

All other requirements (completed courses, minimum GPA, and C average after two years of study) are the same as for Federal Student Aid.

#### Transfer Credit

Transfer credit will be considered as accumulated credits, but will not be included in calculations of minimum GPA or course completion rate unless taken simultaneously with courses at the Health Science Center and included as eligible for financial aid.

#### Loss of Eligibility and Appeals

Students who fail to meet the academic progress standards outlined will be ineligible for federal and/or state aid for the next payment period or academic term. The Financial Aid Office will notify any students who lose eligibility for aid. Students may appeal the loss of eligibility. Appeals will be approved when circumstances beyond the student's control contributed to academic problems. Otherwise, eligibility for aid will be restored when the student has required academic progress.

#### New York State Student Aid Policies

Eligibility to receive financial aid from New York State is determined in accordance with the following charts that have been approved for the State University of New York by the State Education Department:

**STANDARD OF SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS FOR PURPOSE OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENT AID ALL CAMPUSES\*\*\* --- STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

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#### NOTES:

\*Non-credit remedial instruction can be counted toward a full-time academic load as set forth in 145-2.1 of the Commissioner's Regulations. The number of credits in this chart refers to work completed toward a degree.

\*\*This includes successful completion of credit-equivalent work as set forth in 145-2.1 of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Last updated: --