NWACC FINANCIAL AID
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Maximize Potential. Exceed Expectations.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy 2013-2014

Federal Regulations require students to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) while working ***towards an approved degree or certificate program at NWACC.*** All hours attempted at or transferred into NWACC will be counted as part of a student's Satisfactory Academic Progress.[1] Academic progress will be reviewed prior to a student's initial enrollment period and at the end of each semester.

To be in **Good Standing** for Financial Aid a student must:

- successfully complete at least 67% of all attempted credit hours and
- maintain an overall grade point average of at least 2.00 and[2]
- attempt no more than 90 credit hours for associate degrees requiring 60 hours[3]
- must be on track to complete degree plan within the maximum time frame

A student will be placed on **Financial Aid Warning** if they

- do not successfully complete 67% of all attempted credit hours or
- have an overall grade point average of less than 2.00

A student will be placed on **Financial Aid Exclusion** if they

1. attempt 90 or more credit hours for associate degrees requiring 60 hours[3]
2. cannot mathematically complete the degree within the maximum time frame
3. fail to be in **Good Standing** at the end of the **Financial Aid Warning** semester
4. receive all F and/or FA grades for a semester
5. are flagged on the FAFSA by the Department of Education for probable or unusual enrollment history

How does Financial Aid Warning affect my financial aid? Students may still receive PELL, SEOG, student loans and work-study funds. Students are eligible under the **Warning** status for one semester. At the end of the semester, the student must be meeting the **Good Standing** standards. If the student does not meet the minimum standard at the end of the **Warning** semester, they will be placed on **Financial Aid Exclusion**.

How can I be removed from Financial Aid Warning?

Student must be meeting the **Good Standing** standards at the end of the **Warning** period.

How does Financial Aid Exclusion affect my financial aid?

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[1] The Record's Office will review each complete and official transcript and conduct a transcript evaluation to determine which hours will transfer into NWACC. All hours deemed transferrable by the Record's Office will be counted toward the student's Satisfactory Academic Progress. If a student submits additional transcripts during a semester, hours transferred in will be counted in the student's Satisfactory Academic Progress for the following semester.

[2] If your GPA falls below a 2.00, your academic standing with the college may be affected

[3] Associate degrees requiring more than 60 credit hours and certificate programs requiring less than 60 hours will be calculated at 1.5 times the number of hours required for completion of the degree or certificate.

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Students on **Financial Aid Exclusion** are not eligible to receive PELL, SEOG, student loans and work-study.

How can I be removed from Financial Aid Exclusion?

For condition 1, 2, & 5 the only way to be removed from **Financial Aid Exclusion** is to have a Financial Aid Appeal approved.

For condition 3 & 4, a student may be removed from **Financial Aid Exclusion** one of the following ways:

- Students may regain **Good Standing** status by meeting the minimum requirements for **Good Standing.**
- Students may have their aid reinstated with an approved Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal.

How do I appeal Financial Aid Exclusion if I have an extenuating circumstance?

- Obtain a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form from our office or print it from our financial aid webpage at www.nwacc.edu . Complete all requirements listed on the Appeal Form and submit appeal to the Financial Aid Office.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals are reviewed by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee which normally meets bi-weekly. The decision is **final** and the student will be sent a response to their NWACC email account. Students may submit an appeal only two times during their career for separate extenuating circumstances.

The Financial Aid Office will send notification of **Financial Aid Warning** or **Financial Aid Exclusion** to the student's NWACC email account as soon as their completed financial aid file has been reviewed and at the end of each semester after grades have been posted. Notice of **Financial Aid Exclusion** may be issued for past semesters based on an evaluation of the student's previous academic record.

- Students must submit complete official transcripts. If a transcript is received with in progress grades, a student will be required to submit a second official transcript with the completed grades.
- It is the student's responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office of any grade changes.
- When a student repeats a course, the highest grade earned is computed in the refigured cumulative grade point average; however, all repeated classes are counted as attempted and only the highest graded class is counted as completed.
- A student may repeat a failed course two times.
- A student may repeat a successfully completed course only one time.
- Financial Aid is not awarded for courses that are audited or classes that are not part of an approved degree plan.
- Incomplete grades are counted as attempted but not completed hours and are counted in the student's GPA as an "F".
- Financial Aid will be awarded for up to 30 credit hours of remedial course work.
- Students who change their degree and/or majors or who are pursuing a second degree are subject to the maximum number of hours attempted rule.