



Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy 2020-2021

To be eligible for Federal Student Aid, 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 Progress¹.

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

1. have a cumulative course completion rate of less than 67% or
2. have a cumulative GPA of less than 2.00 or
3. attempt 90 or more credit hours for associate degrees requiring 60 hours (too many hours or 150%)² or
4. cannot mathematically complete the degree within the maximum time frame (Pace) or
5. Fail to meet conditions of approved appeal

What does all this mean?

1. Course completion rate is calculated by dividing all earned hours by all attempted hours.
2. GPA-your cumulative NWACC GPA must be equal to or greater than 2.00.
3. Too many hours or 150%-federal regulations mandate a maximum number of credit hours a student is allowed to attempt. This is calculated by multiplying the number of hours needed for the NWACC declared degree plan by 1.5; for example, 60 credit hours x 1.5= 90 credit hour maximum.
4. Cannot mathematically complete degree within the maximum time frame or Pace- the student's total number of credit hours plus the total number of credit hours needed to complete the degree are greater than the maximum number of credit hours allowed; for example, for a 60 credit hour degree program-45 attempted credit hours + 50 credit hours needed=95 credit hours. The student cannot graduate within the maximum time frame of 90 credit hours.
5. Approved appeal students have to meet certain conditions to remain eligible for federal aid. If a student fails to meet one of these conditions, they will be placed back on Financial Aid Exclusion.

When will my Satisfactory Academic Progress be evaluated?

- For students enrolled in Associate degree plans, evaluations occur at the time of review for award eligibility and after the spring and summer semesters.
- For students in certificate programs, evaluations occur at the time of review for award eligibility and after every semester.
- Students on approved academic plans will be evaluated at the end of each semester as required by Federal Regulations.

How does Financial Aid Exclusion affect my financial aid?

Students on **Financial Aid Exclusion** are not eligible to receive PELL, SEOG, Direct Student Loans or participate in the Federal work-study program.

¹ The Record's Office will review each complete and official transcript to determine which credit hours will transfer into NWACC. All hours deemed transferrable by the Record's Office will be counted toward the student's course completion rate but not GPA.

² For degrees or certificates with greater or less than 60 credit hours, the maximum number of credit hours allowed is calculated by multiplying the number of hours required for the degree or certificate by 1.5.

How can I be removed from Financial Aid Exclusion?

For exclusion status 1 & 2, a student may be removed from **Financial Aid Exclusion** one of the following ways:

- Students may regain **Good Standing status** by taking classes on their own and obtaining a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a cumulative course completion rate of 67%. If a student brings their cumulative GPA & course completion rate up to the minimum standards after the fall semester and they are enrolled in an Associate degree plan, they must still appeal to be eligible for the spring semester because their SAP status is not checked between the two semesters.
- Students may have their aid reinstated with an approved Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal.

For exclusion status 3 and 4, too many hours and Pace, the only way to be removed from **Financial Aid Exclusion** is to have a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal approved.

- Exclusion for too many hours=student has attempted more than 150% of the hours needed to complete their degree plan at NWACC
- Exclusion for Pace=it is not mathematically possible for the student to complete their degree plan at NWACC within the 150% maximum timeframe.

For exclusion status 5, Students that did not meet the conditions of their approved appeal must complete a minimum of six credit hours on their own with a grade of a "C" or higher in all classes regardless if their cumulative totals are above the minimum requirements. The six hours must include:

- Classes that did not meet the minimum grade requirement of the approved appeal and are required for the degree plan.
- After the successful completion of the six credit hours, the student will: either be placed in good standing if they meeting the minimum requirements or be eligible to appeal a second time if the extenuating circumstance is different than the one used for the original appeal.

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

Students must complete a Satisfactory Academic Progress appeal workshop. The workshop covers important information on the appeal process, extenuating circumstances, documentation, deadlines and the appeal form. Workshops are held during the months of May and June for the fall semester only. Check our webpage for dates and times:

<https://www.nwacc.edu/enrollment/financialaid/formspolicies/satisfactoryacademicprogress.aspx>

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals are reviewed by a Financial Aid Appeals Committee. The student will be sent a response to their NWACC email account. Students may only submit an appeal two times for separate extenuating circumstances.

The Financial Aid Processing Team will send notification of 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 the each evaluation period. Notice of Financial Aid Exclusion may be issued for past semesters based on an evaluation of the student's previous academic record.

Additional Information:

- College transcripts received during a semester in which the student has already begun attendance will be calculated as part of the student's satisfactory academic progress for the following semester.
- It is the student's responsibility to notify the Enrollment Support Center 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 course with a grade of "D" or higher only one time.
- Financial Aid is not awarded for courses that are audited.
- Incomplete grades are counted as attempted but not completed hours and are counted in the student's GPA as an "F".
- Withdrawals are counted as attempted but not completed hours and do not affect the student's GPA.



- Financial Aid will be awarded for up to 30 credit hours of remedial course work. Remedial coursework is counted in the student's attempted/completed hours and GPA.
- ENGC classes are federal aid eligible and are counted in the student's course completion rate and GPA.
- 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.
- Federal Regulations allow students to receive federal aid for only courses required on the student's declared degree plan with NWACC. The Financial Aid Processing Team goes by the degree plan on file prior to the start of the semester.
- Re-admitted NWACC students must meet the 20-21 SAP policy minimum standards upon re-entry.