

## NWACC Financial Aid: What You Need to Know 2025-2026 Aid Year

To keep getting federal financial aid (like Pell Grants, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, Work-Study, and Direct Loans), you need to stay on track with your classes. This is called **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**. Here's what that means:

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### What You Need to Keep Financial Aid

Your **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)** is reviewed at the end of the **fall, spring, and summer semesters**. You'll get an update sent to your **NWACC email**, so be sure to check it regularly!

To stay eligible, you must:

1. **GPA:** Keep a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
  2. **Completion Rate:** Pass at least **67%** of all your classes (including transfer credits).
  3. **Time Limit:** Finish your degree within **150% of the required credit hours**. (Example: If your degree needs 60 credit hours, the max is 90 credit hours.)
  4. **Pace:** Keep moving at a pace that lets you finish before hitting that time limit.
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### Your SAP Statuses

- **Undetermined:** First-semester students or transfers waiting for their progress to be calculated.
  - **Financial Aid Warning:** You messed up on GPA or completion rate—but you still get aid **for one more semester** to fix it. Check your NWACC email—we'll send you a message there.<sup>i</sup>
  - **Financial Aid Failed:** You received all F and/or FPs for a semester, didn't improve enough during the warning semester or went over your time limit. **No more aid** unless you successfully appeal. Check your NWACC email—we'll send you a message there.
  - **Probation:** If your SAP appeal is approved, you'll be placed on **Probation**, which means you can still get financial aid while working to improve. If you don't meet the terms of your appeal, you'll return to **Failed SAP**. To appeal again, you'll need to take **6 credit hours on your own**—including the classes where you didn't earn at least a **C**—and pass them all with a **C or better**.
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### How to Get Aid Back

- **Fix your GPA/completion rate** on your own (unless you hit the time limit).
- Or **submit an appeal** if you had serious life issues (like illness or a family emergency).

📌 If you're appealing, you'll need documentation and might be placed on an **Academic Plan** and **Probation** if approved.

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### What to Do If You Get a Failed SAP Status and Have a Documented Extenuating Circumstance

- If you receive a **Failed SAP** status and have a documented extenuating circumstance (like a serious illness, family emergency, etc.), you may be eligible to appeal.
- At the **end of the semester**, if you're not meeting SAP standards, you'll get a **To Do item in Workday** that will **walk you through how to start the appeal process**.
- If your **Failed SAP status is from a semester before the one that just ended**, you'll need to **contact the Enrollment Support Center** to request **an appeal for that earlier semester**.
- If a student receives **all F's or FP's**, or a **combination of both**, they must also **meet with the Director of Student Success**. You'll receive information during the appeal process on how to **meet this requirement**.
- Be sure to include documentation that supports your circumstance when submitting your appeal.

👉 [SAP Information & Dates](#)

For more details and important dates, check out our SAP webpage:

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

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### How the Appeal Process Works:

- Your appeal will be reviewed by the **Financial Aid Appeals Committee**.
- You'll get their decision sent directly to your **NWACC email**.
- You can only submit **two appeals** during your time at NWACC, and each must be for a **different extenuating circumstance**.
- The committee's decision is **final and** will be sent to your **NWACC email address**.

### Academic Plan – What to Expect

- If your appeal is approved, you'll be placed on an **academic plan**. This plan is designed to help you **get back on track**, so you can either **regain your financial aid eligibility** or **finish your program successfully**.
  - It's here to support your success every step of the way!
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## Additional Information – Helpful Things to Know

- **Transcripts from other colleges** received during a semester you've already started will count toward your SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress) **in the next semester**.
- **Course completion rates aren't rounded up**—for example, 66.5% does **not** round up to 67%.
- **All coursework**—including transferred or attempted classes—**counts in the SAP calculation**, even if you didn't receive financial aid for those courses.
- It's **your responsibility** to let the **Enrollment Support Center** know if any of your grades are changed.
- If you **repeat a class**, the **highest grade** is used to calculate your GPA. But keep in mind:
  - **All attempts** count as **attempted hours**.
  - Only the attempt with the **highest grade** counts as **completed**.
- You can **repeat a failed course up to two times**.
- You can **only repeat a course you passed with a D or higher one time**.
- **Audited courses** (where you're just sitting in and not earning a grade) do **not qualify** for financial aid.
- **Incomplete grades** are counted as **attempted but not completed**.
- If you **withdraw** from a class, it counts as **attempted but not completed**, and it gets a **0 GPA value** for financial aid purposes.
- You can receive financial aid for up to **30 credit hours of remedial courses**. These hours **do count** in your GPA and course completion rate.
- **ENG C classes** are eligible for federal aid and also count in your GPA and course completion rate.
- If you **change your major or degree**, or go for a **second degree**, you're still subject to the **maximum attempted hours** and **PACE rules**.
- **Federal aid only covers classes required** for your current **degree plan on file before the semester starts**. The Financial Aid Processing Team uses this degree plan when awarding aid.

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<sup>i</sup> **No Warning Semester for Past Attempts**—If you had an **unsuccessful semester before Summer 2023**, you won't be given a warning semester for that time.