

NWACC Financial Aid: What You Need to Know 2026-2027 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:

What You Need to Keep Financial Aid

Your **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)** is reviewed at the end of the **fall, spring, and summer semesters**.¹ 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.ⁱ
 - **Financial Aid Failed:** You 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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¹ If you have historical academic records prior to summer 2023, your SAP status must be reviewed manually. Notification of SAP status will occur at the time of review.

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 will be placed on an **Academic Plan** and **Probation** if approved.

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**.
- 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>

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.
- **ENGC 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.
- **Academic Clemency**-The U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid regulations do *not* include any provision for academic amnesty, academic clemency, academic renewal, or grade forgiveness.

- That means: Even if your school removes a poor grade from your institutional GPA (via clemency or renewal), **for SAP and Title IV eligibility the federal rules still require that all courses and grades be included** in SAP calculations (both GPA and pace of completion)

ⁱ **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.