



GRADUATE SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS FINANCIAL AID POLICY

To be eligible for Federal and State financial aid including Federal student loans at Anna Maria College, a student must maintain satisfactory academic progress. All students are evaluated for academic progress after each semester they attend courses at Anna Maria College, including Summer. The Federal Government requires that students be evaluated both quantitatively (credits completed) and qualitatively (GPA).

The quantitative evaluation is determined by two methods. The first quantitative standard, pace, requires **all graduate students to earn at least 67% of the credits they have attempted towards their degree. For example, if a student attempts 18 credits (usually 6 classes), they must earn at least 12 of those credits. In other words, they must complete and receive a passing grade for 4 of those classes.**

The second quantitative evaluation measures the total number of credits attempted versus those needed to obtain the student's degree. **Students are required to complete their program within 150% of the program length. For example, if the student requires 36 credits to obtain their masters's degree, they can only receive Federal financial aid for the first 54 credits they attempt.**

The qualitative standard is determined by the cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA), which is calculated by the Quality Point Average or QPA (please see Academic Policies and Procedures for more information on the QPA). **Anna Maria College requires all graduate students to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA to remain eligible for their financial aid even if they are allowed to enroll in classes.**

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS FINANCIAL AID SUSPENSION

Students who are failing to meet either the quantitative or qualitative requirements at the end of a term, including Summer, will have their Federal and State financial aid eligibility suspended until they either meet all the quantitative and the qualitative requirements or have an approved Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal on file.

APPEALS

Students who have been placed on Financial Aid Suspension have the right to appeal their suspension in writing by the deadline specified in your notification letter. The appeal should be submitted to the Financial Aid Office and should state what mitigating circumstances, if any, were present that caused the student's cumulative GPA to fall below 3.0, kept them from earning the required number of credits, or prevented them from completing their degree within the required timeframe. Examples of mitigating circumstances which will be considered include illness, injury, and death in the family. Documentation is required in most cases for an appeal to be considered for approval.

FINANCIAL AID PROBATION

If a student's appeal is approved, they will be placed on Financial Aid Probation and their aid will be reinstated for one semester. At the end of that semester the student's cumulative GPA and number of credits earned will be reevaluated.

Sometimes students need more than one semester to recover academically after being put on Financial Aid Suspension. If a student has not made the required cumulative GPA or has not earned the required number of credits and goes on suspension again, then the student may appeal again. Appeals in this circumstance will only be considered if there has been academic progress made during the probationary semester.

OTHER ACADEMIC ELEMENTS

Certain elements affect the academic progress evaluation, specifically:

Withdrawals are not factored into the cumulative GPA but *are* counted toward the number of credits attempted.

Incompletes do not affect either the qualitative or quantitative measurements, until the student either completes the coursework and earns a grade or doesn't complete the coursework and gets an F. Incompletes stand until the fourth week of the following semester, at which point a student with Incompletes will be reevaluated for SAP.

Repeated courses remain on the student's record. If a student fails a course and then repeats it, the higher grade is factored into the GPA. However, the credits from both attempts count towards the quantitative evaluation standards (pace, maximum timeframe).

Transfer credits are NOT included in determining the cumulative GPA but *are* counted toward the number of credits earned.

Change in program affects Satisfactory Academic Progress. Classes from the previous program count toward the new program for both cumulative GPA and number of credits earned. Classes from the previous program that do not count toward the new program will not be counted.

Withdrawal from Anna Maria for a period and then returning is not sufficient to regain financial aid. The student has to make Satisfactory Academic Progress before he or she can regain eligibility for financial aid. An appeal can be made if there were or are extenuating circumstances. For example, if a student attended another college in his or her time away from Anna Maria and has made SAP at that other college, then the student can appeal the Financial Aid Suspension.