

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY  
FINANCIAL AID OFFICE  
STANDARDS FOR SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS  
UNDERGRADUATE POLICY**

Section 484 of the Higher Education Act (HEA), as amended, requires a student to maintain satisfactory academic progress (qualitative & quantitative) in the course of study he or she is pursuing in order to receive aid under the student financial assistance programs authorized by Title IV. These programs include the Federal Pell Grant (PELL), Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant Program (TEACH), Federal Work-Study, Federal Perkins Loan, and Federal Family Educational Loan Program – William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (Subsidized, Unsubsidized and PLUS).

Jackson Student University students must show measurable academic progress towards a degree. Undergraduate students are required to earn a 2.00 Cumulative Grade Point Average in major courses of study in order to graduate.

Title IV recipients use a graduated scale that culminates in the graduation requirement in order to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

**Qualitative Standards**

The following scale is used to determine whether qualitative satisfactory academic progress is being maintained:

**Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Progress Table**

<b>Total JSU Hours Attempted</b>	<b>0-29</b>	<b>30-59</b>	<b>60-89</b>	<b>90-107</b>	<b>108-128</b>
<b>Undergraduate Minimum Cumulative GPA Required</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>2.00</b>

**Quantitative Standards**

Students are expected to complete the requirements for a degree within a reasonable time frame. Undergraduates pursuing a degree are allowed to attempt up to 150% of the published length of their academic program. For example, length of program = 124 x 150% = 186 hours. This includes both Jackson State University attempted hours and hours transferred from other institutions.

Undergraduate students must make incremental progress (PACE) toward their degree; therefore, a minimum percentage of hours attempted must be completed. To meet this standard, students must complete 67% of hours attempted. To calculate **PACE**, the following formula is used:

$$\text{PACE} = \frac{\text{Cumulative number of hours student successfully completed}}{\text{Cumulative number of hours student attempted}}$$

Transfer credit hours accepted will count as hours attempted and completed and will be used in the formula to calculate the PACE rate for transfer students.

**Financial Aid Warning**

Students who fail to maintain the above standards at the end of the evaluation period (semester) will be placed on Financial Aid Warning and eligible for Title IV assistance for the subsequent payment period (semester).

## **Financial Aid Suspension**

Students who fail to complete the required hours and maintain the required cumulative GPA for two consecutive semesters will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension. Students who fail to bring the cumulative GPA into compliance and or complete the required hours, at this point, will be considered as not maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress and will be ineligible for Title IV assistance.

Students placed on financial aid suspension may submit an appeal for reinstatement of aid due to mitigating circumstances that prevented them from maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

Reinstatement of an Academic Suspension to attend the university does not reinstate financial aid.

## **Grades**

All JSU credit hours attempted are included in the Satisfactory Academic Progress calculation. Grades of "F", "I", "W", (withdrawn) are not counted as hours completed; however, they are counted as hours attempted. Also, all repeat hours are counted as attempted hours. Passed hours may only be repeated ONCE for Title IV assistance.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is measured at the end of each payment period (semester) including the summer term.

## **Appeal Procedures**

Students who fail to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and have been placed on financial aid suspension may submit an appeal due to mitigating circumstances for reinstatement of aid. The appeal must clearly explain what mitigating circumstances caused the student to fail the standards and what has changed that will allow the student to make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at the next evaluation. The appeal due to mitigating circumstances with supporting documentation must be submitted to the Office of Financial Aid by the last published date of registration. The Financial Aid Appeals Committee will render a decision and the results will be posted to the student's JSU P.A.W.S. account and/or written notification approximately seven to ten days after the appeal is received.

## **Financial Aid Probation**

Students will be placed on Financial Aid Probation for one payment period (semester) after a successful appeal. At the end of the probationary period (semester), the student must be making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) or following an Academic Plan developed by the student's Academic Advisor that ensures the student can complete his educational program within a reasonable time frame.

## **Reinstatement**

Reinstatement of Financial Aid will be based on the strength of the appeal statement, documentation received, and the academic record. Filing an appeal does not guarantee Financial Aid reinstatement.

Financial aid will be reinstated for students who reestablish eligibility by maintaining the standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

## **Mitigating Circumstances**

Mitigating circumstances are unforeseen, special or unusual/traumatic conditions which caused undue hardship. These circumstances may include serious illness or injury relating to the student, death or serious illness of an immediate family member, significant traumatic occurrence that impaired emotional and/or physical health or other documented circumstances.