

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

**Title IV funds include:**

- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
- Federal Parent Plus Loans
- Federal Work Study
- Federal Perkins Loan
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education
- Federal Direct Graduate Plus Loan

**How progress is measured**

**Qualitative Standards**

Students must meet the Standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as set by the Graduate School and Jackson State University. Undergraduate students must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher. This includes all ESL and remedial courses.

Graduate students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher including any transfer credit hours.

**Quantitative Standards**

All students are expected to complete degree requirements within a reasonable time frame. To meet this standard, all students must complete 67% of all credit hours attempted.

The following formula is used to calculate PACE:

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

**Attempted Credit Hours include:**

- Repeat hours
- Pass/Fail hours
- Incomplete hours
- Withdrawn hours
- Transfer hours

## Grades

All JSU credit hours attempted are included in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) calculation. Grades of “F”, “T”, “W”, and (withdrawals) are not counted as completed hours; 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.

## Student Eligibility

- Students must be admitted and enrolled in a degree program
- Students must complete at least 67% of hours attempted and maintain the GPA as outlined above for each semester
- Undergraduate students may not exceed 150% (186 credit hours) of the published length of their academic program
- Graduate students are considered eligible for financial aid as long as they are maintaining a 3.0 GPA

## Failure to meet SAP Requirements

It is the responsibility of the student to submit the SAP appeal for review. You can be in good academic standing but may not be making Satisfactory Academic Progress for Title IV aid.

## Financial aid Warning

Students who fail to maintain the required standards at the end of the evaluation period (semester) will be placed on Financial Aid Warning for the first infraction. A SAP appeal is not required for a warning.

## Financial Aid Suspension

Students who fail to complete the required credit hours and/or maintain the required GPA for two consecutive semesters will be placed on financial aid suspension. At this point, students will be considered as not maintaining the Standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress and will be ineligible for Title IV assistance.

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

## Submitting a SAP Appeal

Students may appeal the Financial Aid Suspension status prior to the start of the next academic term. All students that fail to meet SAP requirements will be notified. **Failure to receive notification does not dispute or reverse the termination of a student's eligibility to receive financial aid.**

Students who failed to maintain the Standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and have been placed on financial aid suspension may submit an appeal. 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 at the next evaluation. The appeal, with supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by the expressed deadline. **Graduate students must also include an Academic Enhancement Plan (AEP) from their department as part of their appeal submission.**

All incomplete submissions will be DENIED. Appeals submitted after the deadline will not be considered, therefore, DENIED. 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 (i.e. electronic mail) notification approximately seven to ten business days after the appeal is received except during peak seasons.

### **Mitigating Circumstances**

Mitigating circumstances are unforeseeable, special or unusual/traumatic events 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 the student's emotional and/or physical health or other documented circumstances.

Any necessary documentation that can validate the student's situation should be submitted with the appeal. Such documentation may include medical records, police records, court records or letters from your doctor. The Financial Aid Appeal Committee will review your appeal only once before the semester begins; therefore, all information related to the appeal should be submitted with the appeal.

### **Reinstatement of Title IV Aid**

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.**

Students will be placed on financial aid probation for one semester after a successful appeal. At the end of the probation period (semester), the student must be making satisfactory academic progress and following an academic plan developed by the student's academic advisor that ensures the student can complete their educational program within a reasonable time frame. Student may not withdraw from the classes listed as part of their appeal.