

UNI Financial Aid Office
105 Gilchrist Hall
(319) 273-2700 or 1-800-772-2736

STANDARDS OF SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS FOR FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

The University of Northern Iowa Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress is a two-part federal regulation to ensure that students who apply for financial aid are:

- 1.) making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree each semester
- 2.) completing a degree within a specific time period.

The financial aid programs affected include but are not limited to:

- 1.) Pell Grant, 2.) Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), 3.) Academic Competiveness Grant (ACG), 4.) National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grants, 5.) Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants, 6.) UNI Grant, 7.) Iowa Grant, 8.) IMAGE Grant, 9.) Federal and UNI Work Study, 10.) Stafford Loan (subsidized and unsubsidized), 11.) Perkins Loan, 12.) Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS), 13.) Graduate PLUS Loans, and 14.) private educational loans.

1.) MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD A DEGREE EACH SEMESTER

* Only Fall and Spring semesters are evaluated. (Summer session is not evaluated).

UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE STUDENTS

Students who enroll in 12 credit hours or more are required to complete a minimum of 9 credit hours.

Students who enroll in 6 to 11 credit hours are required to complete a minimum of 6 credit hours.

Students who enroll 1 to 5 credit hours are required to complete ALL the enrolled credit hours.

2.) COMPLETING A DEGREE WITHIN A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME

* Total academic record (summer included) is reviewed regardless if aid was received or credit was earned at UNI.

- A.) **1st BA:**
Students are required to complete a degree within 12 full-time equivalent semesters (18 three-quarter-time semesters, or 24 half-time semesters) or upon completing 160 total credit hours.
- B.) **2nd BA/ TEACHING CERTIFICATION/ 1st MA/ 1st DOCTORATE:**
Students are required to complete a degree within 6 full-time equivalent semesters (9 three-quarter time semesters or 12 half-time semesters) or upon completing 60 credit hours. Allowances are made for degrees requiring more than 60 credit hours.

Other degrees, such as a 2nd BA, 2nd MA, 2nd Doctorate started while completing a 1st MA must be funded by the student without financial aid. (Exceptions may be allowed through the Appeal Process as indicated below.)

3.) OTHER GUIDELINES

SATISFACTORY GRADES

Only grades of A, B, C, D, X, Cr, or P are counted as meeting the required hours. Failed classes, audited classes, withdrawn classes, and incomplete grades do not count as completed credit hours and will negatively affect Satisfactory Academic Progress.

WARNING STATUS

The first semester in which a student does not complete Satisfactory Academic Progress the student will receive a warning notification but will continue to be eligible for financial aid. Also, a student who is nearing the allotted time frame to complete a degree will be notified and informed of the number of financial aid semesters remaining. Warnings will only be re-evaluated if the event of grade changes.

SUSPENSION STATUS

Once a student has received a warning, any subsequent Fall or Spring semester, in which the student does not maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress will result in the student being notified about the loss of financial aid eligibility. Also, a student who has reached the allotted time frame to complete a degree will also lose financial aid eligibility. Please contact the Financial Aid Office if the graduate program requires more than 60 credit hours.

APPEAL PROCESS AND DEADLINE

An appeal process is in place for those experiencing extenuating circumstances that affected their ability to make satisfactory academic progress. Appeal forms may be obtained from the UNI Financial Aid Office or online at www.uni.edu/finaid. **Appeals must be submitted no later than the end of the first week of classes following the suspended semester or within 15 calendar days of the date on the academic progress letter, whichever is later. (If suspension occurs at the end of the spring semester, students are encouraged to appeal during the summer period.)** A plan of study (outline of required course work per semester until graduation) signed and dated by the student and the advisor is required with the appeal. Appeals will not be considered unless both the appeal and plan of study have been received by the Financial Aid Office.

REINSTATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AID

Students approved to receive aid again will be expected to adhere to the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy outlined above and any other conditions listed on the Appeal Approval Contract.

FINANCIAL AID ADJUSTMENT

If financial aid has already been awarded and an appeal is not completed or approved, the financial aid funds will be canceled 30 days after the start of the suspended semester. Reinstatement of the financial aid is contingent upon the availability of the funds at the time the appeal is approved.