



UNITED STATES SPORTS ACADEMY

“America’s Sports University®”

Satisfactory Academic Progress Handout

All students who receive federal financial aid must make satisfactory progress toward completion of a degree program within a reasonable period of time.

Students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward a degree as stipulated in the United States Sports Academy (USSA) Catalog and the following federal aid programs: Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG, Alabama State Grant Program, Federal Work Study Program, Federal Stafford Subsidized Loan Program, Federal Stafford Unsubsidized Loan Program, Federal Plus Loan Program, and Federal Grad Plus Loan Program.

Students must meet both qualitative and quantitative measures towards SAP compliance and not exceed the maximum timeframe to be fully eligible to receive financial aid.

Minimum GPA Requirements (Qualitative Measure)

Undergraduate students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA for all course work attempted. In order to meet the required qualitative measure, a student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. This measure comes into effect after the student has attempted six (6) semester credit hours at the Academy.

Graduate students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above for all course work attempted. In order to meet the required qualitative measure, a graduate student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. This measure comes into effect after the master’s student has attempted six (6) semester credit hours at the Academy. For a doctoral student, this measure comes into effect after he/she has attempted (3) semester credit hours.

Minimum Percentage of Successful Course Completion (Quantitative Measure)

All students must successfully complete 67% of all course hours attempted. Course hours include repeated classes and classes with F or W grades.

For financial aid purposes, all grades received are hours attempted (This includes but is not limited to A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F, W, P). Grades of A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D- and P are counted as hours successfully completed. Students must complete 67% of all credit hours attempted.

Maximum Time Frame Requirement

A reasonable length of time for the completion of a degree program is defined as no more than 150% of the normal time required to complete a degree program.

Students should not exceed 180 hours to complete an undergraduate degree program.

Maximum time completion also applies to graduate and doctorate degree students. For example:

- If a degree program is a 120-credit hour program: $120 \times 150\% = 180$ hours, 180 hours is the maximum time frame to complete the program.
- If you transfer 60 credit hours to a 120-hour program: $120 \times 150\% = 180 - 60 = 120$ maximum hours allowed for degree funding, a reasonable pace of progression to complete the degree.
- If the program requirement for a graduate or doctorate student is 60 credit hours, the student would be allotted a maximum of 90 credit hours to complete the program. For example, program requirement is 60 hours multiplied by 150%, which equates to 90 credit hours ($60 \times 150\% = 90$).

If at any point it is determined the student will not be able to meet the 150%-time frame by graduation, the student becomes ineligible for federal aid. For example:

- If a student has attempted 160 hours and is in a program that has a 180-hour maximum, but still has 30 hours left to complete the program, the student will not be eligible for federal aid because the program cannot be completed within the 180-hour time frame ($160 + 30 = 190$).

Financial Aid Warning and Suspension

Financial aid warning will be enforced for any student not meeting the cumulative GPA or the percentage of total hours completed, the qualitative or quantitative measures. This is a warning status and students on warning may continue to receive financial aid.

Students on warning who do not successfully complete at least 67% of courses attempted and are not making progress toward academic compliance (improving cumulative GPA) will be placed on SAP Suspension.

Qualitative and Quantitative Measures While on SAP Warning or Suspension

Students are required to make academic progress toward a degree by maintaining the minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) in work attempted at USSA while on SAP Warning or SAP Probation in accordance with the following table:

Classification	Hours Attempted	Required GPA
Freshman	1-29	2.0
Sophomore	30-59	2.0
Junior	60-89	2.0
Senior	90 or above	2.0
Graduate	6 or above	3.0

Financial aid suspension will be required for any student on warning who is not meeting the above qualitative and quantitative measures towards SAP compliance and exceeding the maximum time frame.

Warning students must complete all hours attempted and be progressing toward academic compliance (acceptable cumulative GPA). Students cannot receive funds from any of the federal financial aid programs listed when not making academic progress or if they are suspended. The student may appeal the decision if his or her financial aid is suspended (see Appeals Process).

Financial aid suspension will be required of any student exceeding the maximum time frame or the allowed total hours attempted for earning a degree. Students cannot receive funds from any of the federal aid programs listed. The student may appeal the decision if his or her financial aid is suspended (see Appeals Process). Students may use other outside sources of funding to pay tuition and fees. Rules apply uniformly to all students, whether they have previously received financial aid or not.

Appeals Process

Students with mitigating circumstances may appeal the financial aid decision as to why they have not complied with the academic requirements for financial aid.

To do so, they must submit an appeal form, and an explanation letter with supporting documentation, to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee with the Attention of the Director of Financial Aid, requesting reinstatement of eligibility for financial aid.

The letter must explain the following:

- Reason(s) why the student did not achieve satisfactory progress and the student must provide supporting documentation to support his or her claim or statement(s).
- Reason(s) why the student believes the aid should be reinstated.
- What has changed that will allow the student to make SAP.
- The student must also state how he/she will successfully move forward and achieve satisfactory academic progress continuously.

The Financial Aid Appeals Committee will review the appeal and determine whether or not the financial aid suspension is justified.

The student will be notified in writing of the decision within 7 to 10 business days of the Financial Aid Appeals Committee decision. The decision made by the Financial Aid Committee is FINAL.

If a student wishes to appeal the financial aid suspension, the student must do so in writing. Students may forward letters with documentation to the following address:

Financial Aid Appeals Committee

Attention: Director of Financial Aid United States Sports Academy

1 Academy Dr.

Daphne, AL 36608

If the student wishes to fax the appeal, he/she may fax the appeal to: (251) 625-1035.

Student Responsibility

Students are responsible for knowing the SAP eligibility criteria, and they are responsible for knowing their status at the end of each semester. If a student has questions regarding financial aid benefits, he/she should contact the Financial Aid Office. It is the suspended student's responsibility to appeal the suspension and contact the financial aid office if he/she has questions.