



FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS STANDARDS

Question: HOW DO I MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS?

Answer: To maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress you must:

1. Maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average (this is a “C” average).
2. Complete all the units you attempt (or the units you begin at the start of the term) by the last day of each semester. Students completing the first academic year at PCC must complete 51% of units attempted with acceptable grades. Those in their second academic year must complete 75%.
3. Not have attempted more than 75 units or no more than a cumulative total of 90 units attempted (which is equal to 3.5 years of full-time enrollment in an undergraduate program). A total of 30 units (attempted or completed) of ESL and/or basic skills courses may be *excluded* from the 75 units limitation. Units attempted include all transfer and previously earned units with or without receipt of financial aid. Unit limitation is not excluded if you are pursuing multiple educational objectives.

Question: HOW MANY SEMESTERS CAN I RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID?

Answer: Financial Aid is not infinite. The number of semesters you can receive financial aid at PCC is determined by your overall enrollment status and the number of units you attempt each semester; for example, if you are a:

- HALF-TIME student, attempting at least 6 to 8.5 units overall, you are limited to 12 semesters.
- THREE-QUARTER TIME student, attempting 9 to 11.5 units overall, you are limited to 9 semesters.
- FULL- TIME student attempting 12 units or more (overall), you are limited to 6 semesters.

Question: WHAT ARE ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE GRADES?

Answer: These are the grades we use to calculate how you are progressing in your educational objective.

Acceptable grades are: A, B, C, D, CR, RD

Unacceptable grades are: F, I, W, NC

Question: WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID PROBATION?

Answer: A student is on financial aid probation if:

1. He/she did not maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress for prior term(s) of enrollment.
2. While on probation, your academic performance is being monitored by a financial aid advisor. If during the probationary period you fail to maintain progress, your financial aid will be suspended.
3. While on probation your request for a student loan certification is postponed.

Question: WHAT I CAN DO TO IMPROVE MY ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE?

Answer: To structure your course load, we recommend that all students seek tutorial assistance, establish a Student Educational Plan developed by an academic counselor and participates in time management and study skills guidance programs.

Question: WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID DISQUALIFICATION?

Answer: You are disqualified when you receive:

- A notice about Satisfactory Academic Progress Disqualification at PCC
- You did not earn acceptable grades while on probation
- You have reached the second academic year at PCC and your GPA is less than a 2.0
- You did not meet conditions of a previous Satisfactory Academic Progress petition
- You have an A.A., A.S., or B.A degree or higher. Students with advanced degrees (BA, MA, MS, etc.) must demonstrate that attendance at PCC is required to advance to a higher degree or for purposes of employment.

Note: Because Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress is reviewed every year, a student on financial aid probation may receive a disqualification notices in future award years.

Question: HOW CAN I REGAIN MY FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY?

Answer: Submit a petition to the Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid. There are two (2) levels of petition. The first level is a committee of student services personnel. The second level is an appeal to the Assistant Dean of Scholarships & Financial Aid. The petition must include a statement, your most recent Student Educational Plan and documentation to support exceptional circumstances beyond your control (i.e. illness, family emergency, etc.). If you have attempted more than 75 units, explain why you need more time to complete your educational goal, what circumstances prevented you from reaching your educational goal and how long it will take you to complete that goal. Only an appeal denied at the first level is submitted to the second level.