

*A student must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress to receive financial aid. Student Financial Services (SFS) defines suspension and probation differently than the university academic community. Financial aid awarded by this office is affected by this policy. SAP is evaluated in accordance with the guidelines below every academic year following the posting of semester grades. SFS may require additional information from a student's academic advisor if student changes his/her major or degree programs to demonstrate progress toward degree completion before aid eligibility can be determined.*

<b>Degree Program</b>	<b><u>Qualitative Progress</u> minimum cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 scale)</b>	<b><u>Quantitative Progress</u> minimum cumulative Completion Requirements (Comp Rate)</b>	<b>Maximum Credit Hours Aided (includes all institutions attended)</b>
UNDERGRADUATE (UG) TRANSFER – UG	2.0	Must satisfactorily* complete 75% of all attempted hours.  All college credit courses taken anywhere for any purpose regardless of outcome and whether or not financial aid was used, count toward SAP determination (includes US and/or International college credit).	186 hours or 12 full time terms.
TRANSFER- 2 <sup>nd</sup> UG Degree	2.0	Must satisfactorily* complete 75% of all attempted hours after 1 <sup>st</sup> BA was earned with a 2.0 GPA.	94 attempted hours from 1 <sup>st</sup> UG degree accepted by Nursing Program will be counted for Nursing Programs ONLY.
GRADUATE	3.0	Must satisfactorily* complete 66% of all attempted hours.	54 hours or 6 fulltime terms (maximum attempted hours to achieve Master's Degree).
LAW	2L/3L – 2.0 1L – 1.8	Must satisfactorily* complete 75% of all attempted hours.	135 hours (maximum attempted hours allowed to achieve a Juris Doctorate degree).
DOCTORAL (DNP and PhD)	3.0	Must satisfactorily* complete 66% of all attempted hours.	118 hours for DNP or 135 hours for PhD (maximum attempted hours allowed to achieve a doctorate).
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT	2.0	Must satisfactorily* complete 75% of all attempted hours.	197 attempted hours or 48 months.

\*Satisfactory Grades: A, B, C, D (for Nursing A, B, C), P and S; Unsatisfactory Grades: I, W, F, WF, WP, U, and AU

## SAP Benchmarks, Standards, and Appeals Process

In accordance with Federal, State, and University aid and scholarship program guidelines, academic progress toward a degree must be made in order for students to continue receiving funds.

### Benchmarks

- I. Students seeking financial assistance are expected to make **qualitative** satisfactory academic progress to remain eligible for financial aid. Grade point average (GPA) requirements are defined in the University catalog. Students must achieve the following minimum cumulative GPA: Undergraduate students are required to have a 2.0; Graduate & PhD students 3.0; 2L/3L Law students must maintain a 2.0, and 1L Law students must maintain a 1.8.

- II. Students seeking financial assistance are also expected to make **quantitative** progress to remain eligible for financial aid. Quantitative progress is measured as a percentage of the successful hours earned out of the total hours attempted (Completion Rate). All periods of enrollment are considered, both US and International, which includes all transfer work attempted, including ESL and remedial coursework. Grades of I, W, F, WF, WP, U, and AU are not successful completions.

Federal regulations require OCU to establish a **maximum time frame** standard. OCU's standard for all degree programs is 150% of the hours required to complete a degree. The minimum undergraduate completion rate is 75%, the minimum graduate completion rate is 66%, the minimum JD (law) completion rate is 75%, the minimum doctoral completion rate for DNP and PhD programs is 66%.

**Standards**

- I. A student who has exhausted quantitative eligibility will be placed on financial aid suspension with the option to appeal for an **extension of limited eligibility**.
- II. If a student does not meet SAP requirements at the end of a semester and it is possible for the student to return to academic standards in one semester, OCU will notify the student with an official **warning** permitting the student one semester of aid (and an Academic Plan, if warranted). Following the semester that the student is on warning, the student must have met the SAP benchmarks (or, if applicable, achieved academic progress according to the prescribed Academic Plan). If student did not meet SAP benchmarks, the student's financial aid will be suspended.
- III. If suspended, a student may submit an **appeal**. If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed on an Academic Plan (for financial aid purposes) and granted one semester of aid. If academic progression is not met at the end of the semester as prescribed in the Academic Plan, student will be suspended and responsible for future charges.
- IV. After completing at least one full semester at his/her own expense, and having demonstrated qualitative and quantitative progress that exceeds the minimum benchmarks during the semester without aid the student may submit an appeal for **reinstatement of financial aid** eligibility. Hours earned from another university while on suspension will not be considered toward required progress.

***Following each SAP Review, a student's status for continued aid eligibility is updated as follows:***

<b>STATUS</b>	<b>EXPLANATION</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE FOR AID</b>
Good Standing	Making Satisfactory Academic Progress (GPA and Comp Rate).	Yes
Warning	If GPA &/or Comp Rate are below the academic standards stated above, and it is possible for student to return to academic standards in one semester, student will be placed on a Warning and, if warranted, an Academic Plan. <i>*this status is only available to continuing OCU students and does not apply to the initial eligibility determination of incoming transfers.</i>	Yes - for one semester.
Suspension	If student would be unable to progress to academic standards in one term or if after a Warning academic progression is not demonstrated, student's financial aid will be suspended with the right to appeal	No
Plan	If warranted while on Warning or if an SAP appeal is approved, student will be placed on a Plan. Student remains as long as s/he is making progression as defined by the Plan or reaches SAP benchmarks.	Yes – while meeting Plan requirements
Denied	If an appeal is denied, student will remain ineligible for aid.	No

**Appeals Process**

- I. A student placed on financial aid suspension will receive a notification letter sent through official University email and be given the opportunity to submit an application of appeal to the Financial Aid SAP Appeals Committee. The Committee will determine whether the suspension stands or aid eligibility is conditionally reestablished.
- II. If a student is **suspended due to maximum attempted hours**, the Appeal Committee will review a) the total hours transferred, b) hours required to complete student's degree at Oklahoma City University as certified by the student's academic advisor, and c) the student's overall loan debt. If the appeal is denied, the student will not be eligible for federal aid and cannot regain eligibility.
- III. Decisions rendered by the Financial Aid SAP Appeals Committee are final and cannot be appealed to the Department of Education.

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