

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for Financial Aid Eligibility

In order to receive federal, state or institutional financial aid, all students must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress toward the attainment of a degree/certificate.

The Federal Assistance Programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended require the establishment of minimum standards of academic progress that students must meet to maintain eligibility for financial aid.

“The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy for Financial Aid Eligibility” applies to all aid programs administered by or through the Office of Student Financial Assistance. These standards apply to all students seeking or receiving assistance regardless of prior aid receipt history. Academic progress is reviewed at least once per academic year. All students must be matriculated (admitted to and eligible to enroll in an approved degree/certificate pursuing program.)

There are three distinct dimensions to the SAP standards:

- Completing the degree requirements within an established timeframe.
- Maintaining the minimum required grade point average (GPA).
- Achieving a minimum rate of academic progression each year.

These standards also include an opportunity to appeal the denial of financial aid if the student has faced unusual circumstances that prevented the student from attaining the minimum standards described in this document.

Aid Programs Affected by Academic Progress:

Federal Pell Grant

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant

Federal Work-Study Program

Federal William D. Ford Direct Loans (including the subsidized and unsubsidized student loans,

Federal Parent Loan (PLUS) and Federal Grad PLUS)

TEACH Grants

New Jersey State Programs

 Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)

 Governor’s Scholarship Program

 Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)

 NJ Stars

 NJCLASS Loans

TCNJ Grants and Scholarships

Termination of Aid: (Qualitative Measurement)

Students who do not meet the minimum grade point average requirements as set forth in *The College of New Jersey Undergraduate Bulletin* or *The College of New Jersey Graduate Bulletin* will be placed on financial aid probation concurrent with the academic probation period. Failure to restore the required grade point average within the allotted period will result in termination of financial aid eligibility. Aid for subsequent enrollment periods will be terminated immediately for any student placed on academic suspension or dismissed (as defined in *The College of New Jersey Undergraduate Bulletin* or *The College of New Jersey Graduate Bulletin*) at the end of any semester/term. This policy does not supersede higher GPA requirements that may apply to individual aid programs (such as merit scholarships).

A student will be placed on Academic Probation by the College if the student:

1. has attempted zero to eight course units in letter-graded courses and has earned a cumulative GPA of less than 1.75. OR
2. has attempted more than eight course units in letter-graded courses and has earned a cumulative GPA of less than 2.0.

Transfer Students:

Transfer student classification and eligibility for financial aid is subject to final review of accepted transfer credit hours. The student's classification upon evaluation of transfer credit will be used to determine minimum grade point average requirements for continued satisfactory academic progress.

Time Limits: (Quantitative Measurements)

Undergraduate:

Students in a 4-year program of study who have attempted 45 units (including transfer credit) cease to be eligible to receive financial aid.

All students are expected to complete their program within 150% of the program length.

Students not achieving a minimum rate of academic progression each year will be flagged as not meeting SAP. TCNJ will monitor attempted versus completed units at the end of each academic year. Students who fail to complete 67% of attempted versus completed units will be flagged for not meeting an adequate pace of completion towards the 150% program length.

Graduate:

From the date of first enrollment in a specific degree program, students seeking a master's degree must complete all degree requirements (including thesis) within six academic years.

Reinstatement of Aid:

Students who have been suspended / dismissed from The College must present documentation of approved authorization to re-enroll when petitioning reinstatement of aid. Students who have not received authorization to re-enroll remain ineligible to receive assistance or deferment of payment. They should be prepared with other resources to pay all educational expenses. Students whose appeals are approved may have their aid reinstated pending availability of funds.

All provisions of “The College of New Jersey Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for Financial Aid Eligibility” may be appealed by written petition to the Director of Financial Aid or Designee.

Number of Appeals Accepted:

Students can submit up to two appeals per program. A program is defined as undergraduate, graduate, or certification. If the student experiences extenuating circumstances beyond the second appeal, it is recommended that they contact the Financial Aid Office.

Appeal Approval Conditions:

Appeals can only be approved if the Financial Aid SAP Appeals Committee determines that the student:

- Will be able to meet the College’s satisfactory academic progress after either the next payment period, or the next SAP review. The committee will determine which condition applies.
- Has agreed to follow an academic plan that will ensure that the student can meet the College’s satisfactory academic progress guidelines.

If an appeal is granted: A student whose appeal is granted will receive aid on a conditional basis for one semester or year, based on the Committee’s recommendation. The Appeals Committee will review the student’s record after the conditional period, to determine his/her status for the next semester. *Students who fail to meet the conditions outlined in their individualized academic plans during their conditional semester(s) will have their financial aid cancelled and will not be allowed to submit an appeal for the upcoming semester.*

NOTE: The institution has a right to establish the number of units a student may take during their probation period.

Any student granted an approved appeal will have financial aid reinstated in accordance with their eligibility. It is the student’s responsibility to complete any requirements and submit all requested documents. Future aid eligibility will be based on completing and meeting all deadlines and stated conditions of this policy.

Students who do not wish to appeal or whose appeal is denied may consider applying for alternative/private student loans and/or make other out-of-pocket payment arrangements.

Re-establishing Eligibility:

Students not making SAP can re-establish eligibility for Federal, State and institutional aid in several ways:

- Attend the summer term and successfully complete the semester with credits and grades sufficient to bring the student back into SAP
- Attend TCNJ at their own expense (some students may qualify for an alternative loan) and successfully complete the semester or year with credits and grades sufficient to bring the student back into SAP

- Attend another institution and transfer sufficient credits to bring the student back on track for their progression (this option does not work for raising the GPA). Note: transfer credits will affect the maximum timeframe calculation.

A period of non-enrollment will not restore eligibility to a student who has failed to make satisfactory progress.