Financial Aid Standards of Progress

For many of our students, financial aid is a very important part of their educational experience. Accepting federal aid is also a very big responsibility. To be sure you’re aware and prepared for what’s required of you by the federal government, please take the time to review the following information.

Standards of Academic Progress

All students receiving any type of federal financial aid must meet the Standards of Academic Progress (SOP) for Financial Aid Recipients set by federal regulations. To continue receiving financial aid each term, students must meet all three criteria:

1. Maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA).

2. Successfully complete at least 67 percent (Student Completion Rate) of all Seminole State courses taken (including transfer courses accepted by Seminole State taken as a part of another program of study).

3. Complete his/her degree within the 150 percent time frame. (Example, an associate degree requiring 60 credit hours must be completed within 90 credit hours).

Standards of Academic Progress (SOP) are evaluated at the end of every Spring Term. Students who do not meet the SOP due to GPA, completion ratio and/or excessive credit hours will be required to complete a financial aid appeal. Students who do not meet the requirements of a previously approved appeal will be placed on financial aid suspension and will not be eligible for further financial aid until the student regains eligibility by improving their GPA and completion rate.

Financial Aid Appeals Process

Students can appeal a financial aid suspension if they have emergency or extraordinary circumstances that affected their ability to meet the satisfactory academic progress requirements. There have been significant changes in federal regulations concerning this area, so should you find yourself in this position, please thoroughly review and complete the Financial Aid appeal form to ensure federal requirements. Incomplete appeals will be denied. Appropriate documentation must be provided in the appeal process, including graduation checks for the academic plan or documentation (when available) to support extenuating circumstances.

Note: The College has requirements for Standards of Academic Progress (SAP) as outlined in College Procedure 4.1000 and Standards of Academic Progress (SOP) for Financial Aid Recipients as outlined in College Procedure 4.2000. While on financial aid suspension, a student may be granted an appeal for SAP and register for classes. However, the amount owed will be the responsibility of the student. Financial aid does not cover payment for students who are on financial aid suspension.
Reinstatement of Financial Aid Eligibility

A student who has lost financial aid eligibility may be reinstated after the student has taken classes and the minimum requirements of a 2.0 GPA and a cumulative completion rate of 67 percent of all credit hours have been achieved. (Note: There is no reinstatement after suspension for exceeding the maximum credit review.)

- It is the student’s responsibility to notify the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships when this condition has been met.

- Students who exhaust the 150 percent time frame and have used their one appeal cannot be reinstated for financial aid at Seminole State.

More information about the Financial Aid Standards of Progress for Financial Aid Recipients is available on our website. We also encourage you to review the Federal Integrity Rules that provide information on other regulations that may impact your financial aid eligibility and award.

Best Regards:
Office of Financial Aid
Seminole State College of Florida