

Carnegie Mellon University

Student Financial Aid Office

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy and Procedural Statement

To be eligible for federal, state, and institutional financial aid, all students are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress toward the completion of a degree. Each university determines its own policy in accordance with federal regulations set forth by the U. S. Department of Education regarding satisfactory progress standards to ensure student success. To maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress at Carnegie Mellon University, students must meet the following minimum standards for both of the qualitative (QPA) and quantitative (completion rate) measures:

Student Type	QPA (Qualitative)	Completion Rate (Quantitative)*
First Year Undergraduate	1.75	80%
Undergraduate Upperclass	2.00	80%
Graduate	3.00	80%

* To calculate the completion rate, the cumulative number of completed units is divided by the cumulative number of units attempted. Advance Placement credits are excluded from both figures.

In addition to the above mentioned Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress standards, federal regulations require a student to complete their degree within a specified amount of time. The maximum timeframe cannot exceed 150 percent of the time published as needed for completion of the program.

Scope:

This policy applies to Federal aid including Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study, Federal Direct Loans, and Federal Direct PLUS Loan programs; state grant aid; and Carnegie Mellon institutional aid including grants, loans, and scholarships.

Federal regulations can be found at:

Federal Student Aid Handbook, Volume 1
Chapter 1 School Determined Requirements
34 CFR 668.16(e)
34 CFR 668.32(f)
34 CFR 668.34

Evaluation:

Carnegie Mellon evaluates all students for Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress annually, at the end of the spring semester. Students that are included in the review are undergraduates, graduates, both full-time and part-time.

Courses that do not count toward a student's degree cannot be used to determine enrollment status for financial aid purposes. Carnegie Mellon will count transfer credit hours that are accepted toward a student's educational program as both attempted hours and completed hours. Advanced Placement Non-Degree and Non-Credit courses are not counted as units passed or attempted. When a course is repeated, all grades will be recorded on the official academic transcript and will be calculated in the student's QPA. For financial aid eligibility, only one repeat per course is permitted in the determination of enrollment status for courses previously passed.

If the student withdraws and is not assigned a W grade, then it will not be counted in the number of units attempted or completed. If the W grade is assigned, the units will be counted in the number of units attempted and will be counted as zero in the number of units completed.

If the student has incomplete units, the units will be counted as attempted and will be counted as zero in the number of units completed.

The Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress evaluation is a cumulative review of all semesters, regardless of whether or not the student received financial aid during the academic year.

If the minimum requirements are not achieved, the student is ineligible to receive financial aid. In such a case, the student is notified and given an option to appeal their financial aid status. More information about the appeal process can be found at www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/policies/academic-progress.html.

A financial aid package will not be completed unless an appeal is received, approved and processed accordingly. If by chance a financial aid package is processed and released to the student, it is conditional and subjected to financial aid removal until an appeal is received, approved and processed accordingly.

Contact:

Questions regarding this policy or its intent should be directed to the Student Financial Aid Office at 412-268-1353.