



Satisfactory Academic Progress Information

Office of Financial Aid

The U.S. Department of Education requires all students receiving financial assistance to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward their degree or certificate. At Providence College, the Office of Financial Aid reviews academic performance at the conclusion of each semester (and upon re-enrollment) to ensure students meet the federal and institutional standards necessary to remain eligible for aid. Please note that academic eligibility is only one component of the financial aid renewal process; maintaining SAP does not guarantee a specific level of funding year-to-year.

Standards of Academic Progress

Eligibility is determined by both quantitative and qualitative measures of academic performance:

- **Quantitative Measure (Pace of Progression):** Students must complete at least **67%** of all credits attempted. This ensures the student is progressing toward graduation within the maximum timeframe. *Example: A student who attempts 15 credits but only earns passing grades in 12 is progressing at an 80% pace.*
- **Qualitative Measure (GPA):** Students must meet minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) requirements based on total credits completed. Undergraduate eligibility is maintained through a graduated GPA scale, requiring a 1.60 for the initial 12 credits, a 1.80 for 13–24 credits, and a 1.90 for 25–36 credits; all students with 37 or more earned credits must maintain a 2.00 cumulative GPA. Graduate Students: Must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 at all times, regardless of the number of credits completed.

Financial Aid Status and Notifications

If a student fails to meet the SAP standards outlined above, they will be notified by the Office of Financial Aid regarding their status:

- **Financial Aid Warning:** A one-semester grace period is granted to students who fall below the minimum standards. Students remain eligible for aid during this term but must reach the required standards by the end of the semester to avoid termination. If a student is placed on Warning specifically due to incomplete grades, the Office of Financial Aid will automatically re-evaluate their status at the designated deadline (the semester midpoint for undergraduates or one year for graduates) and update their eligibility if they have returned to good standing.
- **Financial Aid Termination:** Occurs when a student fails to meet the required standards following a Warning period. Aid is cancelled until the student regains good standing.
- **Financial Aid Probation:** A status assigned to students who have successfully appealed a termination. These students may be placed on a specific academic plan to support their return to good standing.

Appeal Process for Extenuating Circumstances

Students facing unforeseen hardships (such as medical emergencies or personal loss) may appeal a termination of aid.

- **Submission:** All appeals must be submitted electronically through your Student Forms . A written statement of appeal, along with all necessary supporting documentation, must be uploaded within 14 days of the date of the termination notification.
- **Review:** The Financial Aid Committee reviews all appeals within two weeks. If an appeal is denied, a final request for review may be sent to the Executive Director of Financial Aid.
- **Reinstatement:** Students whose appeals are denied may request a reinstatement of eligibility after completing the equivalent of two semesters of at least half-time enrollment at their own expense while meeting all SAP requirements.

Enrollment Changes and Withdrawals

- **Course Withdrawals (WD):** If a student withdraws after the add/drop period and receives a "WD," their current aid typically remains unchanged if they are still billed for the credits. However, frequent withdrawals may negatively impact the "Pace of Progression" and lead to future termination.
- **Course Drops Without a "WD":** If a class is dropped before or after the add/drop period and the student does not earn a grade of "WD," those credits cannot be counted toward enrollment—even if the student is charged for all or part of the course.
- **Dropping Below Half-Time:** Federal loans require at least half-time enrollment (6+ credits). Dropping below this threshold may result in the cancellation of loans or a reduction in Pell Grant eligibility.
- **Maximum Timeframe:** Students remain eligible for financial aid for up to 150% of the credits required for their program (e.g., 180 attempted credits for a 120-credit degree). Eligibility is suspended once it is mathematically impossible to complete the degree within this limit.

Merit-Based Scholarships

Merit-based awards are governed by individual contracts and are reviewed by the Student Success Center. The Office of Financial Aid will only adjust merit funding upon official notification from the Student Success Center. Students with concerns regarding their merit scholarship should contact that office directly.