

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy 2008-2009 Financial Aid Office

Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

For Financial Aid Eligibility

General information: Before a student receives federal financial aid, the financial aid regulations require that the student has met and continues to meet some basic academic progress standards. Below are Boise State University's financial aid policies regarding GPA, credit completion, maximum credits, and term completion requirements. **Please note that the “one semester probation” does not apply towards the “Completion Rate”, “Cumulative G.P.A”, and the “Maximum Credit” standards. This only applies to the “Term Completion Rate” hold on Bronco Web.**

A printed copy of this policy will be provided upon request.

Please note that transfer credits count towards the Maximum Credit Standard and Credits Completed (to determine the minimum Cumulative GPA requirement). Transfer credits are not included in the Completion Rate Standard for Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Monitoring period: Starting at the end of the spring 2009 semester, students will be monitored based on their current academic career. A review of academic progress is done at the end of each spring term for all students who have been enrolled since fall of 1999, with the following student groups reviewed more frequently:

- ❖ All financial aid recipients are evaluated for the term completion portion every term (see policy in chart below);
- ❖ Students whose financial aid appeals were approved and academic performance conditions set;
- ❖ Students with academic progress issues who have performed well enough to regain eligibility at the end of summer or fall terms. **(Exception: Due to computer system upgrades, if you think that you have regained eligibility at the end of the fall 2008, please contact our office to review your progress.)**
- ❖ Students enrolled in programs of less than one year will be monitored at the mid-point of their program.
- ❖ The Maximum Credit Standard will be monitored at the end of every semester.

Students not meeting these Satisfactory Academic Progress standards will receive communication via email and, in some situations, with letters. All students should watch BroncoMail and check the holds and warnings on BroncoWeb regularly.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

For Financial Aid Eligibility

Minimum Cumulative GPA Standards

Students must maintain the following minimum cumulative GPA average in accordance with the Boise State catalog:

Total Number of Credits Completed	Minimum Cumulative GPA
0 - 6	1.0
7 - 32	1.6
33 - 64	1.8
65 or more	2.0

To Regain Financial Aid Eligibility

Students must attend and successfully complete enough courses to earn the appropriate cumulative GPA.

Graduate students must maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA average.

Completion Rate Standard

Students must complete 75% of all credits attempted at Boise State.

- ❖ Credits attempted are defined as all classes for which a student receives a passing grade (“D -” or better, or “P”), or an “F,” “I,” “W,” “NR,” “CW,” or “IP.”
- ❖ Credits completed are defined as all classes for which a student receives a passing grade of “D -” or better, or “P”.
- ❖ Developmental credits (MATH 25, ENGL 90, etc.) and ESL (English as a Second Language) credits will be counted as credits attempted. They will also be counted as credits completed if a passing grade is received for the course.
- ❖ Audit/challenge credits do not count as credits attempted or completed.
- ❖ **Repeated courses** count as credits attempted during each term the student is enrolled in the course. However, they will be counted once as credits completed the first time a passing grade is received for the course.
- ❖ **Failing a repeated class** that you previously passed results in 0 credits completed
- ❖ University excluded credits are counted as withdraws – attempted, but not completed.

To Regain Financial Aid Eligibility

Students must attend and successfully complete enough courses to meet the 75% completion standard.

* See one-time exemption on page 3. *

Passing grades are: “D-” or better, or “P”

Developmental Credits are:	
APPACAD 65	= 1 cr.
APPACAD 70, 85, 88, 90	= 3 cr.
CHEM 99	= 2 cr.
ED-CIFS 30	= 1 cr.
MATH 15, 25, 97;	= 3 cr.
ENGL 90	= 3 cr.
MUS-APL 10; THEA 10	= 1 cr.

Maximum Credit Standard

Students are expected to complete degree requirements after attempting a certain number of credits. The maximum attempted credits allowed for degree or certificate completion will be no more than 150% of the credits needed to complete that type of degree. Master’s credits are program specific. Challenge, ESL, test and developmental credits are all included as attempted credits. Audit credits do not count towards maximum credits attempted.

The totals are as follows:	Total # of credits allowed
Post Secondary Technical Certificate	24
9/11 month Certificate	45
Advanced Technical Certificate	78
Associate's Degree	90
Bachelor's Degree	192
Second Bachelor's Degree	45
Master's Degree	45 - 91

To Regain Financial Aid Eligibility

Students must complete the current certificate/degree program. They might regain eligibility if they continue in a more advanced certificate/degree program. Example: Complete a technical certificate and continue in an associate’s degree program.

When a student completes their first bachelor’s degree, or starts their first master’s or doctorate degree program, credits will automatically restart at 0 and new credit limits will apply.

Boise State Policy: Term Completion Rate

Explanation of the Term Completion Rate Standard

Students must satisfactorily complete at least one course during a term in which federal financial aid is received.

Audit and challenge credits are not considered in the term completion rate policy.

Credits attempted are defined as all classes for which a student receives a passing grade (“D-” or better, or “P”), or an “F,” “I,” “W,” “NR,” “CW,” or “IP.”

"Satisfactorily complete" means a passing grade of “D-” or better, or “P” was received.

Note:

All financial aid students may have a slight delay in receiving funds for the following term until grades are reported and it can be determined that at least one course was satisfactorily completed the previous term. Every attempt will be made to release funds as quickly as possible.

To Regain Financial Aid Eligibility

The first time the student fails to meet the term completion rate standard, a student will receive a probationary warning. For any subsequent occurrence, the student will lose eligibility for aid until he/she enrolls in at least 6 credits in a term (graduate students, 5 credits) and satisfactorily completes 100% of all credits attempted without federal/state financial aid.

The one semester probation does not apply towards the “Completion Rate”, “BSU G.P.A”, and the “Maximum Credit” standards. This only applies to the “Term Completion Rate” hold on Bronco Web.

Students who have a probationary warning should note:

- ❖ You may have a longer delay in receiving funds the following term because ALL the previous term’s grades need to be checked before federal aid can be released.
- ❖ If any other Satisfactory Academic Programs standards have generated HOLDS on your record, those standards and conditions take precedence over the probationary warning.

* **SAP Alert Policy** *: Students who meet all of the following criteria, when SAP is checked at the end of the spring semester, will be given a one-time exemption to the 75% Credit Completion Rate Standard without needing to appeal (effective for 75% violations that occurred on or after spring semester 2007).

Criteria: 1. Freshman standing as defined by the Registrar’s Office. 2. Degree Seeking. 3. Pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree (If you change your major and are no longer enrolled in a bachelor’s degree program, your satisfactory progress status will be re-checked on an on-going basis and you may be assigned a hold that will prevent you from receiving federal aid). 4. Attempted less than 31 credits (which include developmental credits). 5. Has never had any Satisfactory Academic Progress conditions. 6. Does not have a GPA or Term Completion satisfactory academic progress hold. 7. Will have the 75% Credit Completion Hold placed at the end of the spring semester (that hold will be replaced with the SAP Alert exemption). **As long as the student enrolls within the next calendar year, the SAP Alert exemption will be honored.**

Students who are granted the SAP Alert will be given the following conditions to meet at the end of each semester.

Conditions: Enroll in a minimum of six credits during the semester, pass 100% of all credits attempted during the semester, while earning a term G.P.A of at least 2.25 (all summer students must complete 100% of any credits attempted with at least a 2.25 term G.P.A).

As long as the 75% Credit Completion Hold is the only Satisfactory Academic Progress issue and the student meets the above conditions, the student will continue to be considered for federal financial aid assuming that all other eligibility requirements and the minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress standards have been met.

Appeals

If extenuating circumstances exist which caused a student to fail to meet one of the above standards, a written appeal may be submitted. Examples of extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to: unexpected death or major hospitalization of an immediate family member, extended hospitalization or medical condition of student, house fire, victim of a violent crime. Work conflicts are not extenuating circumstances.

The appeal must include supporting documentation. A committee will review the appeal and the committee’s decision is final. The specific instructions, deadlines and appeal forms are available on the web at:

<http://financialaid.boisestate.edu/forms/SAPappeal09.pdf>

If an appeal is successful, certain conditions for academic performance will be set and monitored. Students will be informed of these conditions if their appeal is approved. Students who have an approved appeal may experience delays in receiving funds the following term because the previous term’s grades will need to be checked before further financial aid can be released.