Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress

Please understand that Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress is different than NCC’s Academic Standards, and different from the required academic standards that may be set by your specific program.

Federal regulations require Northwest Iowa Community College to establish satisfactory academic progress standards for student financial aid recipients. These standards ensure that only those recipients demonstrating satisfactory progress toward the completion of their educational programs continue to receive financial aid. Your entire NCC record will be reviewed for satisfactory academic progress, including terms for which you did not receive financial aid.

Any grade forgiveness granted from the Academic Restart Program does not apply to the financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress standards. When calculating a student’s satisfactory academic progress for financial aid, all grades earned from all previous enrollment periods will be considered.

Whether a student is considered to be making satisfactory academic progress depends on successful completion of courses (credit hours earned), cumulative grade point average (GPA), and maximum time limits to complete his or her course of study. Students must meet all of these requirements to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

**Grade Point Average Requirements** — To be eligible for financial aid at NCC, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0. If a student repeats a course, the last grade issued will be used in the calculation of the GPA. Grades received in developmental courses are not used in the calculation of the GPA. Courses for which the student has been granted grade forgiveness from the Academic Restart Program (academic amnesty) are included in the calculation of the cumulative GPA.

**Completion Rate Requirement** — Each semester, a student’s academic progress will be measured by comparing the number of attempted credit hours with the credit hours earned. On a cumulative basis, a student must earn 67% of all credits ever attempted to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

The following are considered when evaluating a student’s satisfactory academic progress:

- Withdrawals, incompletes, and failures are considered attempted but not earned credits.
- Passing credits received for pass/fail courses are considered attempted and earned credits; failing grades in pass/fail courses are considered attempted but not earned.
- Credits for repeated courses will be counted as attempted credits each time the course is repeated. Credits for repeated courses will be counted as earned only once and only when a passing grade is received. For a repeated course, only the last grade issued will be used in the calculation of the cumulative GPA.
Courses for which the student has been granted grade forgiveness from the Academic Restart Program (academic amnesty) are included in the calculation of both attempted and earned hours.

- Audited courses are not considered credits attempted or earned.
- Developmental courses are included in the calculation of both attempted and earned credits.
- Transfer credits, including those received during consortium study, do not count in the calculation of the GPA, but they are included in the calculation of both attempted and earned credits.
- For an enrolled student who changes programs or majors at NCC, both the credits and grades from the previous program or major will be included in the calculation of attempted credits, earned credits, and cumulative GPA.

**Maximum Time Frame Requirement**— You will not be eligible to receive financial aid once you have attempted more than 150 percent of the normal credits required for your degree or diploma program, or once it becomes clear that you cannot mathematically finish the program within the 150% maximum time frame. For programs requiring 60 credit hours for graduation, 90 credit hours would be the 150% program maximum. All attempted hours are counted, including transfer hours, whether or not financial aid was received or the course work was successfully completed.

**Evaluation of Academic Progress** — A student’s satisfactory academic progress is evaluated after each term of the academic year. At that time, a student will either be in good standing, be placed on financial aid probation, or be placed on financial aid suspension for future enrollment periods. The student must meet all three progress requirements (completion rate, cumulative GPA, and be within the maximum time frame) to remain in good standing. Students will be notified by the Financial Aid Office if they are placed on probation or suspension status for financial aid.

**Probation Status** — A student is eligible to receive financial aid while on probation status.

- The first term a student fails to maintain the academic and/or completion requirements listed above they will be placed on financial aid probation at NCC. The student will remain on probation until the end of the next term. At the end of the next term, the student’s progress will be reviewed.
- The probationary semester is meant to inform the student of potential academic problems and provide time for corrective action. If a student does not meet the satisfactory academic progress standards after the probationary period, suspension status would be imposed or continued probation approved. Suspension status will prevent the student from receiving financial aid, including but not limited to, any Title IV, state, or institutional financial assistance. Suspension status will remain in effect for future enrollment periods until such time as the student meets all satisfactory academic progress standards.

**Suspension Status**— A student who is placed on suspension will not be eligible to receive aid and must pay tuition and fees in future terms. A student will be suspended from financial aid at NCC if:
At the end of a period of probation, the student has not met the satisfactory academic progress requirements; or
At the end of a period of suspension, the student has not met the satisfactory academic progress requirements; or
At the end of a period of probation or suspension, the student has incomplete grades.

**Appeal and Reinstatement**— Students may appeal their suspension status by submitting a Financial Aid Suspension Appeal Form to the Financial Aid Director. Appeal Forms may be picked up at the Financial Aid Office. A student may appeal due to an emergency condition (e.g., health, family, catastrophe, etc.). Documentation verifying the situation may be requested and is encouraged.

The Financial Aid Academic Review Committee will consider the appeal and render a decision, which the Director of Financial Aid will convey in writing to the student. Notification will occur no later than fifteen days after:

- the appeal form is received from the student; or
- after all semester grades are in, whichever is later. The decision of the Financial Aid Academic Review Committee may be appealed by following the institutional grievance procedure.

Students whose appeal has been approved will be placed on academic probation, and eligibility for financial aid will be reinstated on a probationary level. Students must regain compliance with the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards at the end of the probationary period. If this is not accomplished during the probationary semester, the student will be placed on financial aid suspension and will no longer be eligible to receive financial aid. To regain eligibility for financial aid, the students will be required to bring their course work up to the minimum standards at their own expense. It is the responsibility of the students to notify the Financial Aid Office that their course work meets the minimum standards and to request that their financial aid be reviewed for reinstatement.