

The Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress of Shawnee Community College (SCC) are in compliance with U.S. Department of Education regulations, other relevant federal regulations, and the policies of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. The Shawnee Community College Financial Aid Services Office is responsible for ensuring that all students who receive federal and state student financial aid are meeting these standards. This policy will be amended whenever applicable federal or state law or regulations are changed. Other amendments to the policies will be considered through normal SCC policy revision procedures.

Each student who receives federal and/or state student financial assistance must maintain satisfactory academic progress, according to the policies outlined below, in order to continue to receive financial aid. These policies determine satisfactory academic progress in relation to eligibility for the Federal Pell grant, Federal SEOG grant, Federal Work-Study, Federal Veteran's Administration Benefits, SCC Institutional Work-Study, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's Monetary Award Program, and the Illinois Veteran's Grant/National Guard Scholarships

At Shawnee Community College, an academic year is defined as two semesters of 15 weeks or more (fall and spring semesters.) The summer semester is considered to be part of the previous academic year. In order to assure that a student is satisfactorily progressing toward a certificate or degree, the progress of each student who has received financial aid for at least one of the prior terms in the Shawnee Community College academic year will be assessed annually after the spring semester to determine the progress made for the last academic year of attendance. Students who have attended SCC in the past, whether or not they received financial aid, will be assessed prior to receiving aid. Grade and time requirements are in effect for all attempted credit hours, whether the student received financial aid or not. Student progress will be measured in the most recent curriculum formally declared. Transfer students will be assessed for satisfactory academic progress related to grades and percentage of hours earned based only upon courses attempted at Shawnee Community College. Certificate or degree completion will be assessed on Shawnee Community College hours and on hours formally transferred and accepted by Shawnee Community College.

### **Grade Requirements**

Each financial aid recipient must be enrolled in an eligible certificate or degree program, and maintain at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average (equivalent to a "C" average) on a 4.00 scale. As long as the cumulative grade point average is 2.00, regardless of the current grade point average, the student is maintaining satisfactory progress in relation to grade requirements.

Whenever a student's cumulative grade point average drops below 2.00 the student will be placed on financial aid **Probation** for the following semester. The student may continue to receive grant or gift financial aid while on probation, but will not be eligible to receive an initial student work assignment. During the probationary semester, the student must attain a 2.00 current grade point average, or raise his or her cumulative grade point average to 2.00 to retain financial aid eligibility. If the student does not attain a 2.00 current or cumulative grade point average during the probationary semester, the student will no longer be eligible, and will be placed on financial aid **Suspension**. No additional Title IV financial aid will be awarded the student until eligibility is reinstated.

If a student has attained a 2.00 current grade point average while on probation, but the cumulative grade point average is still under 2.00, the student will be allowed to continue on probation for an additional semester. Following the semester in which the cumulative grade point average reaches 2.00, the student will be taken off of probation.

Students must have a 2.00 cumulative grade point average after completing their second academic year to be eligible for further Title IV financial aid. Two academic years are defined as four fall and/or spring semesters of attendance. If the student does not have a cumulative 2.00 grade point average after two academic years of attendance, the student will be placed on financial aid **Suspension**. If the student subsequently does attain a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or above, the student regains eligibility for financial aid the following semester.

### **Maximum Time Frame**

A student is expected to complete an Associate Degree after attempting no more than 96 credit hours (150% of 64); to complete a one-year Certificate program after attempting no more than 51 credit hours (150% of 34); and to complete a less-than-one-year Certificate program after attempting no more than 24 credit hours (150% of 16). Exceptions may be made to extend the allowable hours for certificate or degree programs which require more than 34 or 64 hours, respectively, to complete the program.

Due to required prerequisites in the LPN/ADN programs before a student will be formally accepted into the programs, an LPN student is expected to complete the Certificate after attempting no more than 77 credit hours (150% of 51) and an ADN student is expected to earn the Associate Degree after attempting no more than 122 credit hours (150% of 81)

Once the allowable level of credit hours attempted has been reached, the student will be placed on financial aid **Suspension** until the appropriate certificate or degree has been completed.

To maintain academic progress over time, a student must, by the end of the first full academic year of attendance (one fall and one spring semester) and each year thereafter, have successfully earned 67% of attempted hours.

Attempted hours are all hours the student is still enrolled in after the 10th day each semester. If 67% of attempted hours have not been successfully completed the student will be placed on financial aid **Probation** for one semester. The student may continue to receive grant or gift financial aid while on probation, but will not be eligible to receive an initial student work assignment. During the probationary semester, the student must enroll in and pass enough hours to have successfully earned 67% of attempted hours by the end of the semester. If the student does not attain the 67% level during the probationary semester, the student will no longer be eligible, and will be placed on financial aid **Suspension**. No additional Title IV financial aid will be awarded the student until eligibility is reinstated.

When a student is placed on financial aid probation, suspension, or termination, a notification letter is sent to the student. However, lack of receipt of a notification letter does not nullify the probation, suspension, or termination status.

Failures, Incompletes, Withdrawals, Audits, ABE/GED and Community Education courses are not counted as credits successfully completed. Repeated courses are counted in the assessment of grade point averages, and as an attempted course. All other credited courses, including pass/fail courses and remedial courses, are also counted. If a student's grade is changed after a designation of financial aid probation or suspension, it is the student's responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Services Office. Changes are not final and are not considered for financial aid purposes until officially recorded on the student transcript. Withdrawal from school will have no effect on the student's satisfactory academic progress standing upon re-entering.

### **Reinstatement**

Students on probation for grade requirements retain probationary status as long as their current grade point average is 2.00 or better.

To reinstate probationary financial aid status after having eligibility suspended, the student must enroll, and utilize resources other than federal/state financial aid to pay for the costs. The student must earn a minimum of six (6) semester hours and attain a 2.00 current grade point average for all enrolled hours during the semester. Reinstatement without probation will occur when the student's cumulative grade point average is 2.00 or better.

Students who are on suspension because a certificate or degree has not been completed within 150% of attempting the normal credit hours needed will be reinstated after they have processed an approved graduation application for the appropriate certificate or degree, and have been placed on the graduation list.

Students who are on suspension because they have not successfully earned 67% of attempted hours will be reinstated after they have successfully earned 67% of attempted hours.

Students who have been terminated from financial aid after having earned a total of 124 credit hours at Shawnee Community College can not be reinstated except through the appeal process.

### **Monitoring Procedures**

Semester hour enrollment is monitored by the Financial Aid Services Office on the identified Pell Status Date each semester, and financial aid awards are adjusted for those students whose enrollment status has changed. (For example, a student who drops from full-time status to half-time status will have his or her Pell award adjusted accordingly.)

Grade requirements and the status of all enrolled students on probation are monitored by the Financial Aid Services Office at the end of each semester.

Satisfactory progress toward the completion of a degree or certificate, and the percentage of hours attempted that have been earned, is monitored by the Financial Aid Services Office in annual increments (at the end of the spring semester) except for the progress of students in less-than-two-year programs, which is monitored at the end of each semester.

Satisfactory attainment of the federal requirement for a 2.00 grade point average after two academic years is monitored by the Financial Aid Services office after each spring semester.

### **Appeals**

Students not meeting one or more of the satisfactory academic progress standards of Shawnee Community College will be ineligible for continued financial assistance, as described, unless an appeal which justifies reinstatement is submitted and approved. A student may appeal suspension or termination of financial aid by submitting, in writing, any mitigating circumstances that prevented the student from making the required progress. An appeal letter, along with supporting documentation and an Appeal Form, should be sent to the Financial Aid Services Office at Shawnee Community College. The merit of the appeal will be determined by the Shawnee Community College Scholarship Committee, which serves as the financial aid advisory committee, at their next regularly scheduled meeting after the appeal is received. The Committee decision shall be final.