Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards for Financial Aid Recipients

Lewis & Clark Community College has established qualitative and quantitative measures for evaluating the efforts of financial aid recipients to achieve an educational goal, degree, or certificate. An assessment of these efforts will occur each term. Terms include fall semester, spring semester, and summer sessions. In order to remain in financial aid good standing students must meet the following criteria.

1. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average (CGPA).

2. Students pursuing an associate degree may attempt up to a 150% of that program’s total credit hours for completion. For example, if a student is pursuing a degree that requires 60 credit hours, that student may attempt up to a maximum of 90 credit hours. (Attempted hours include transfer hours and courses attempted with grades of F, W, I, and PR.)

3. Students must progress through their academic program at pace of completion that will ensure they will graduate within the maximum timeframe of their program. At the end of each semester or summer term, students must have earned at least 67% of all credit hours attempted through that semester or summer term.

4. Students who fail to meet the minimum grade point average requirement or the minimum completion rate requirement will be placed on "Warning" for the next semester of enrollment. Students on financial aid warning have one semester to comply with the standards of academic progress. Failure to do so will result in ineligibility for financial aid in the next semester of enrollment, and the students will be placed on “Financial Aid Suspension”.

5. Students who exceed the maximum 150% time frame of credit hours attempted are placed on "Financial Aid Suspension"; and thus ineligible to receive financial aid at L&C.

6. Students on financial aid may repeat a course in which a passing grade was not attained. However, multiple repeats will negatively affect a student’s completion rate. Students can also receive financial aid for one additional retake of a course if the course was previously passed the first time.

7. Students on financial aid must enroll in courses that count towards his/her academic degree. These courses should follow published degree/certificate requirements, either as general education requirements, electives, or prerequisite developmental studies.

Students who fail to meet the standards for financial aid eligibility may continue to enroll in the College at their own expense. Students may become eligible for financial aid when the standards of academic progress have been satisfied.

Students may appeal the suspension of financial assistance to the Financial Aid Committee documenting all extenuating circumstances. The Financial Aid Committee will assess the appeal based on documentation submitted. Students will be notified in writing of the committee's decision.

If a student appeals his/her financial aid suspension status to the Financial Aid Committee and the appeal is approved, the student will be reinstated for financial aid and placed on “financial aid probation”. Once a student has been reinstated for financial aid through the appeal process, if the student successfully maintains a 100 percent semester completion rate AND at least a 2.0 semester GPA, the student will remain on “financial aid probation”, though the cumulative GPA may still be below 2.0 and/or the cumulative completion rate may still be below 67 percent. If a student does not continue to make progress by successfully maintaining a 100 percent semester completion rate AND at least a 2.0 semester GPA after his/her appeal has been approved, the student will again be placed on financial aid suspension; and thus be ineligible to receive financial aid. Appeal approvals may be contingent upon an academic plan to insure success including but not limited to a reduction in workload/credit hours. Students with an approved appeal who are placed on academic plan must successfully follow the academic plan to maintain financial aid eligibility. An academic plan may not be developed for students who could potentially get back on Good Standing after their probationary semester.

Please note: Academic Suspension negates any appeal approval by the Financial Aid Committee.

For more information on Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards please see the Financial Aid section of the College’s current Catalog.

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