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## Financial Aid

### Lone Star College Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy Policy Effective Date: Fall 2016

## Section 11: Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

### 11.1 SAP Standards

Federal Regulations require all financial aid recipients maintain satisfactory academic progress in a course of study leading toward a degree or certificate at Lone Star College. SAP requirements include:

- **Qualitative standard**- Maintaining at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average,
- **Pace**- Successfully completing 67% of cumulative credits attempted, and
- **Maximum timeframe**- Earning a degree or certificate within 150% of the published length in credit hours of the declared program of study.

### 11.2 Evaluation Requirements and Period

LSC will evaluate SAP at the end of each term, i.e., Fall, Spring, and Summer. Failure to meet one or more of the established SAP standards will make a student ineligible for financial aid. However, this does not prohibit a student from continuing their educational pursuit by meeting payment obligations with personal resources.

An aid recipient's cumulative record, i.e., all enrollment periods at LSC, regardless of whether or not aid was received during the periods, along with transfer credits, will be evaluated.

### 11.3 Treatment of Special Populations

An admitted student that files a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and for which there is no SAP status on the student record will have a SAP evaluation performed based on the student's prior LSC enrollment record and any transfer credits, as applicable. A first time student with no prior college enrollment will always be assigned "Meets SAP" and is aid eligible.

All transfer credits accepted by Lone Star College will be included in the SAP calculation. Transfer credits will be counted as both attempted and completed in the Pace calculation. GPA from transfer credits will not be factored into the SAP calculation.

Students may attempt no more than 30 developmental credit hours in pursuit of a degree or certificate.

Students who enroll for less than 12 credit hours are considered part-time. Academic progress requirements apply to part-time enrolled students on a proportional basis.

#### **11.4 Consequences of not meeting SAP**

**Financial Aid Warning** – Upon the student’s first infraction period they will be placed on Financial Aid Warning. Students will be eligible for financial aid during the period they are placed on warning. After warning period, if a student’s cumulative GPA and/or completion rate does not meet the college’s SAP standards, the student will be placed on financial aid suspension. A student may not receive two consecutive semesters of warning status. A student may receive an additional warning semester after regaining eligibility (Meets SAP).

- If a student successfully completes the warning period and cumulative GPA and completion rate meet the college’s minimum standards the student regains eligibility for financial aid.
- If a student successfully completes the warning period but the cumulative GPA and/or completion rate do not meet the college’s minimum standards the student may be placed on suspension.
- If a student does not successfully complete the warning period, the student will be placed on suspension.

**Financial Aid Suspension-** If, after being placed on financial aid warning status, a student fails to meet the SAP standards of a cumulative 2.0 GPA and 67% completion rate, he or she will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension and will immediately lose financial aid eligibility.

**Maximum timeframe suspension-** If a student fails to meet the Maximum Time Frame standards, he or she will be placed on Maximum Time Frame Suspension and will immediately lose financial aid eligibility.

**Note:** It is the student’s responsibility to monitor academic progress. A student who does not meet the standards will be ineligible for financial aid even if they do not receive communications.

#### **11.5 SAP Appeal Process**

A student that has been placed on financial aid suspension (Not Meets) for failure to meet the SAP requirements may submit a SAP Appeal to the Office of Financial Aid via the portal or in person.

If the student has mitigating circumstances such as, death of a relative, illness or injury, or other special circumstances beyond their control that affected their ability to meet SAP standards, the student may appeal the loss of their eligibility. Sufficient documentation of such circumstances must be provided along with the appeal.

If approved, the student will be placed on “Appeal Approved (Probation)” and is aid eligible during that semester of probation. A student on probation must submit an academic plan prior to

the end of the semester in order to be eligible for aid the following semester. Failure to submit an a will render the student ineligible for aid.

### **11.5.1 Extenuating Circumstances**

- Medical(personal or family illness)
- Death of a family member
- Job Loss
- Natural Disaster
- Military Deployment
- Car Accident
- Legal Issues (divorce, separation, incarceration)
- Traumatic Event
- Other extenuating circumstance

### **11.5.2 Regaining Eligibility for Financial Aid**

A Student will regain eligibility once all Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements are successfully met.

**Note:** Neither paying for nor sitting out for an enrollment period is sufficient to reestablish eligibility for Financial Aid.

### **11.5.3 New or Conflicting Information**

If the student receives a grade change for a previous term in which SAP was calculated, the student must contact the Financial Aid Office so that SAP can be recalculated based on the new information.