



Academic Progress Frequently Asked Questions!

What is Satisfactory Academic Progress?

All matriculating students are required to meet minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards as defined by the U.S. Department of Education to remain eligible for financial aid each year. At the end of each academic year (or upon re-enrollment to the college) academic performance is reviewed. This review is comprised of quantitative measures (credits completed vs. credits attempted) and qualitative measures (grade point average). Please keep in mind a review of your academic progress is only one type of review conducted during the renewal process each year. Being compliant academically does not guarantee a similar level of funding year to year.

What is the College's current Undergraduate SAP policy for federal, state and institutional need-based aid?

For determination of Federal, State and Institutional need-based funds we adhere to the U.S. Department of Education regulations on academic progress. A student must meet **both** quantitative and qualitative measures of academic progress to remain eligible.

Making Reasonable Progress

Quantitative measure

You must complete on an annual basis, with passing grades, at least two-thirds (67%) of the total number of credits you attempt (including those attempted during summer sessions, winter sessions, non-degree semesters, and transfer credits). For example, if you *attempt* 30 credits in one academic year, but only *earn* passing grades in 24 credits, then you are making reasonable academic progress in 80% of your coursework. In addition, you also must meet the minimum GPA standard as outlined below.

Good Academic Standing

Qualitative measure

Credits Completed	Minimum GPA
0–12	1.60
13–24	1.80
25–36	1.90
37–48	2.00
49–60	2.00
61–72	2.00
73–84	2.00
85–96	2.00
97–108	2.00
108–116	2.00

What is the College's current Graduate SAP policy for federal, state and institutional need based aid?

Students accepted and enrolled in a Graduate program are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 regardless of number of credits completed to remain in good standing.

What is the College's current academic progress policy for merit money?

If you have a St. Dominic, St. Thomas Aquinas, or St. Catherine of Siena Scholarship, then your minimum academic requirements are dictated by the terms in the contract you signed upon acceptance to Providence College. All merit recipients must maintain a cumulative GPA greater than a 3.25 (3.0 for Freshman year) and persist in the Liberal Arts Honors program. Each semester these criteria are reviewed by the Office of Dean of Undergraduate Studies who will notify you under separate cover if your merit scholarship is in jeopardy.

The Office of Financial Aid will cancel your scholarship only if notification to do so is received from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. If you feel your merit scholarship was cancelled erroneously or you have questions or concerns you would like addressed, you may do so through the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies or the Office of Financial Aid.

What if I fail to meet the Undergraduate or Graduate SAP policy? Can I appeal the decision?

If you are unable to maintain an academic standing consistent with the College's SAP policy you will either be placed on probation or have all of your aid terminated. You will be notified by the Office of Financial Aid about which area(s) you are not in compliance with and instructions about the potential course of actions available to you, if applicable.

Probation

If you receive a Probation Letter it means your GPA and/or the number of credits you have earned are currently below the required minimums as stated on the reverse side of this form. Therefore, for the upcoming academic year you would be placed on **Financial Aid Probation**. It would be necessary for you to use the next academic year to attain the appropriate minimum standard(s) by the end of the Spring semester. If you are unable to meet the prescribed standard during the probationary term, it will be necessary to terminate your financial aid for the academic year following your year of probation.

Termination

If you receive a Termination Letter it means you were unable to attain over your probation period the appropriate minimum standard(s) by the end of the Spring semester. Your aid would be cancelled for the next academic year. If you feel there are extenuating circumstances you could appeal this decision. You have 14 days from the date you are notified to submit in writing a letter of appeal and all supporting documentation to the Office of Financial Aid. All appeals are reviewed by a Financial Aid Committee and decisions will be made within two weeks from the date a completed appeal was submitted.

What happens to my financial aid if I withdraw from one class?

If you drop one class after the published add/drop period in a given semester, incur a bill for the class you are dropping and you earn a grade of WD in the class, then your financial aid will stay the same. Your financial aid eligibility is directly tied to what you are being charged by the College at the time of disbursement. Therefore, if you continued to be billed for the class you are dropping then your aid will stay in tact for the same credit load (full-time, $\frac{3}{4}$ time, half-time, less than half-time).

However, if you received a refund (i.e. charges were reversed) for the class you are dropping we are obligated to review your financial aid eligibility at your new enrollment and your aid may be reduced or cancelled depending on your situation. These adjustments may result in a payment due to your student account. Just a reminder: You need to be enrolled and billed for greater than 6 credits in order to continue eligibility in the William D. Ford Direct and Perkins Loan program.

How does dropping one class affect my academic progress review?

If you drop one course chances are it will not have a significant impact on your yearly academic progress review that is conducted by the Office of Financial Aid. However, if you are dropping classes habitually in every semester then you run the risk of not meeting the established policies on the reverse side of this form. Your financial aid will eventually be terminated since funding is intended to support a student who is making reasonable progress toward the completion of a degree.