SUNYFAP Conference 2013

Satisfactory Academic Progress

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Session Description – SAP

“New regulatory requirements were put in place by the U.S. Department of Education for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). This session will review the new requirements, emphasizing standardization of SAP terminology and identify where schools have options within the new requirements. In addition, participates will hear an overview of how two schools implemented the new regulations”
All SAP regulations are now included in CFR 668.34

668.32(f) includes SAP with other eligibility requirements

668.16(e) refers to SAP as “reasonable policy”
Basic Components: SAP Policy

- **Qualitative Standard** – GPA
- **Quantitative Standard (Pace)** – Credits Attempted/Credits Earned Ratio
- **Maximum Time Frame** – 150% of requirements
- **Evaluation schedule** – How often will SAP be reviewed at your institution?
  - *Every Term or Annual*
What Differs from the old SAP Policy?

- New SAP regulations clearly outline required elements that must be present in an institutional SAP policy

- Institutions that monitor SAP each payment period have more flexibility
What Differs from the old SAP Policy?

- Standardization of terminology
  - Warning, Probation, Pace
  - Appeal process
  - Requirements of an Academic Plan

- Inclusion of Transfer Hours

- Repeat Coursework
SAP Standard – Warning

- **Warning**
  Matriculated students who fail to achieve the minimum standard for satisfactory academic progress as defined by the SAP Standard will receive a notice of warning from the college
  - Warning can only be used if checking SAP each payment period
  - This status is automatic (no appeal required)
  - Allows for *one* additional payment period of SFA funds *only*
SAP Standard – Loss of Eligibility

- **Loss of Eligibility**
  - If a financial aid recipient is not able to achieve SAP during the *Warning* period, the student is no longer eligible for FSA funds
  
  - Students at schools monitoring SAP annually go straight to this status (no warning period allowed)
SAP Standard – Reestablish Aid Eligibility

- Reestablish Aid Eligibility
  A student can reestablish financial aid eligibility by achieving the Satisfactory Academic Progress Standard
SAP Standard – Appeal

Appealing Loss of Eligibility

– If SAP is checked annually, student may appeal to have a financial aid *Probation* term to meet minimum requirements

– If SAP is checked each term, a student may appeal after the financial aid *Warning* term if SAP standards are still not met
SAP Standard – Probation

- Probation – A student that is successful in their Appeal will be placed on probation for financial aid.

- Financial aid may be for one term or multiple terms based on an Academic Plan.
Academic Plans

- An academic plan for an approved appeal may state specific conditions that must be met such as:
  - Registering for fewer credit hours
  - Achieving a certain term grade point average
  - Only taking certain courses
Academic Plans

- May be as simple as a calculation or as detailed as a class by class schedule.

- May require buy-in from other offices on campus such as Academic Advising/Counseling, School Dean or Provost etc.

- May be several terms in length.
Transfer Hours

- SAP Regulations – Now require to count transfer hours accepted at your school toward the degree as both attempted and earned hours for SAP.

Transfer students may now have slight advantage over other students.
Repeated Coursework and SAP

If institution allows repeat coursework:

- Unlimited repeated courses could be funded if student has not passed the course

- Only one repeat of course could be funded with Title IV aid if student has previously passed the course
Repeated Coursework and SAP

- SAP rules must address the treatment of repeats to Title IV eligibility
- Repeat coursework is a separate topic, but directly related to SAP
- Information on repeat courses is found in 668.2(b)
Dutchess Community College
SAP Standard

- Assessed for all students after every term

- DCC GPA
  - 2.0

- Minimum Completion Ratio (67%)

- Maximum Time Frame (150%)
Circumstances for Appeal at Dutchess Community College

- Serious medical illness or injury to the student.
- Death of an immediate family member.
- Significant change in employment or military status that prevents the student from attending class.
Circumstances for Appeal at Dutchess Community College  

- Significant trauma in the student’s life that impairs the student’s emotional and/or physical health.

- Academic Plan:
  - The student has no withdrawals (exception Military Withdrawals MW) in that term.
  - There are no incompletes or failures in that term.
  - Student earns a semester GPA of a 2.5.
The College at Brockport
Satisfactory Academic Progress

- Assessed annually after the spring semester

- GPA requirements

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Credits Completed</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0&lt;24</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2.0</td>
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<td>84≥</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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</table>

- Maximum time frame (150%)

- Pace (66.6%)
The College at Brockport
Satisfactory Academic Progress  continued

- E, I, PR, U & W grades – treated as attempted but not successfully completed
- Transfer Credit – attempted and completed
- Institutional Academic Plans (Fall 2011)
- SAP polity at:
  http://www.brockport.edu/policies/index
Proposal done May 2011

Annual SAP Review analyzed

Potential SAP impact on 700 students

Appeal process allowed for one semester probation
The College at Brockport
Academic Compliance Officer continued

- Converted number of students into potential tuition and other revenue loss
- Requested Academic Compliance Officer to administer process and academic plans
- Approved and hired summer 2011
Federal Academic Progress at SUNY Schools

(THE OTHER SUNYFAP)
FAP Requirements

- Clear and easily located policy. (student disclosure information)
- Policy at least as strict as the policy the institution applies to a student who is not receiving assistance.
- Provides for consistent application of standards to all students within categories of students.
- GPA or other comparable assessment.
FAP Requirements continued

- The pace at which a student must progress to complete the program within the maximum timeframe (attempts vs. completed).

- Process for Incompletes, Withdrawals, Repetitions, and transfer of credit from other schools.

- Frequency of FAP evaluation.

- FAP Warning (evaluate by term).
FAP Requirements continued

- FAP Probation (evaluate annually)
- FAP Appeal
- Process schools use to evaluate FAP
- FAP notifications to students.
Analysis of Selected SUNY Schools

- 27 schools selected (two and four year)
- Reviewed policies on website
- Research done by student employee
Able to Easily Locate FAP Information?

Yes

No

25

2
Does the Policy Include Qualitative Measure (GPA)?

- Yes: 24
- No: 3
Does the Policy Include Pace Requirements?

- Yes: 24
- No: 3

3 out of 24 policies do not include pace requirements.
Does the Policy Include Maximum Time Frame?

- Yes: 19
- No: 8
Does the Policy Include Treatment of Transfer Credit?

- Yes: 15
- No: 12

Yes
No
Does the Policy Include Treatment of Incomplete Grades?

- Yes: 16
- No: 11
Does the Policy Include Treatment of Withdrawal Grades?

- Yes: 15
- No: 12
Does the Policy Include Treatment of Repeated Courses?

- Yes: 15
- No: 12
How Often is FAP Reviewed?

- **Annual**: 2
- **Semesterly**: 0
- **Not Stated**: 23
Does the Policy Explain How a Student Regains Eligibility for Title IV Funds?

- Yes: 15
- No: 12
Does the Policy Address the FAP Appeal Process?

- Yes: 20
- No: 7
Does the School Provide Academic Plans of Study?

- Yes: 3
- No: 24
Does the Policy Include How Graduate FAP is Defined?

- 18 out of 27 schools selected offer graduate courses.
Does the Policy Include All the Required Components?

- Yes: 15
- No: 12