

University Policy 3.01.05**Financial Aid Satisfactory
Academic Progress****Policy Approval Date: May 18, 2007****Policy Effective Date: January 1, 2008****Procedure Approval Date: August 11, 2016****Procedure Effective Date: September 1, 2016****POLICY STATEMENT**

Federal regulations require that all learners who receive financial aid maintain financial aid satisfactory academic progress (FASAP). Learners must meet minimum FASAP requirements to qualify for financial aid, as described in the program requirements sections of this policy and related procedures. Failure to maintain FASAP may result in financial aid warning, financial aid probation, or financial aid ineligibility. Learners who Capella determines are able to meet the minimum FASAP requirements by the end of their program may appeal financial aid ineligibility pursuant to the procedures described in this policy.

Undergraduate Degree Program Requirements

Undergraduate learners are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher and complete a minimum of two out of every three attempted credits (course completion ratio of 67 percent of cumulative attempted credits), regardless of payment source.

FlexPath learners are required to earn a standard of “Basic” or better on all competencies within each course and complete a minimum of two out of every three attempted program points (course completion ratio of 67 percent of cumulative attempted program points), regardless of payment source.

Additionally, undergraduate learners will not be eligible for federal financial aid for any attempted credits or program points that exceed 150 percent of the undergraduate degree requirements described in their catalog.

Graduate Degree Program Requirements

Graduate learners are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher and complete a minimum of one out of every two total attempted credits (course completion ratio of 50 percent of cumulative attempted credits), regardless of payment source.

FlexPath learners are required to earn a standard of “Proficient” or better in all competencies within each course and complete a minimum of one out of every two attempted program points (course completion ratio of 50 percent of cumulative attempted credits), regardless of payment source.

Additionally, graduate learners will not be eligible for federal financial aid for any attempted credits or program points that exceed 200 percent of the graduate degree requirements described in their catalog.

Doctoral learners engaged in the advanced doctoral phase of their program must meet additional requirements described in the procedures section of this policy.

RATIONALE

Federal regulations require that all learners who receive financial aid maintain financial aid satisfactory academic progress (FASAP). Learners must meet the minimum FASAP requirements to qualify for financial aid. Learners may only use financial aid for a maximum number of credits or program points attempted for their degree or certificate level. This policy outlines the requirements and procedures for evaluating financial aid eligibility based on FASAP and the total number of attempted credits or program points.

DEFINITIONS

Advanced Doctoral Phase

The advanced doctoral phase begins after a learner has completed all didactic course work and residencies. An advanced doctoral learner's requirements include any remaining courses in the comprehensive examination, dissertation, or doctoral capstone course sequence, and any additional program requirements as published in the *University Catalog*.

Career

Career is the term used to identify a learner's degree program(s) as either undergraduate or graduate.

Certificate

A certificate is a non-degree credential at a specific level that is awarded upon successful completion of course work and learning experiences in an academic or professional field.

Degree Program

A degree program is a specific set of course work and learning experiences in a field of study that, upon successful completion, results in the conferral of a degree or credential.

Didactic Course Work

Didactic course work refers to academic courses that focus predominantly on instruction of theories, facts, and competencies.

Financial Aid Ineligibility

Financial aid ineligibility is a federal financial aid status that indicates a learner is not maintaining financial aid satisfactory academic progress pursuant to the terms of this policy, and is ineligible for federal financial aid. The learner may not receive federal financial aid until he or she is meeting the financial aid satisfactory academic progress requirements.

Financial Aid Probation

Financial aid probation is a federal financial aid status that indicates a learner is not maintaining financial aid satisfactory academic progress pursuant to the terms of this policy, but has been approved through appeal to remain eligible for federal financial aid.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP)

FASAP is a federal financial aid status that indicates a learner is maintaining good academic standing pursuant to the terms of this policy.

Financial Aid Warning

Financial aid warning is a federal financial aid status that indicates a learner is not maintaining financial aid satisfactory academic progress pursuant to the terms of this policy, but remains eligible for federal financial aid.

PROCEDURES

- I. Factors Impacting Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP) for All Learners
 - A. Grades

No Grade (“NG”), Withdrawal (“W”), Incomplete (“I”), In Progress (“IP”), Satisfactory (“S”), and Not Satisfactory (“NS”) grades are included in the course completion ratio but do not impact the learner’s grade point average (GPA).
 - B. Repeated Courses

When a course is repeated, the grade considered for the credit and GPA calculations will be the higher of the two grades earned. Each attempt will be used in evaluating course completion ratios. Refer to university policies *2.02.02 Course Registration*, *3.04.07 Grading*, and *3.04.08 Incomplete Grades* for more information.

- II. Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP) Process for All Learners
 - A. FASAP is measured for all learners who receive federal financial aid. In addition to minimum FASAP requirements, there are undergraduate-, graduate-, and FlexPath-specific requirements, as described in sections III.A, III.B, and VI.A.
 - B. FASAP Requirements for All Learners
 1. FASAP is evaluated only following quarters or payment periods during which the learner is registered in one or more courses. A learner’s financial aid eligibility will not change following a quarter or period of academic inactivity.
 2. A learner’s current FASAP status remains on record until there is academic activity for evaluation.
 3. The initial evaluation begins after the first full quarter or payment period of academic activity.

Examples:
Learners who initially register during a monthly start will be measured at the end of quarter two based on activity from their initial start date through the end of quarter two.
Learners who register at the beginning of a quarter will be measured at the end of quarter one based on activity from their initial start date through the end of quarter one.

FlexPath learners who have an extended payment period beyond the 24-week mark will be evaluated at the end of the extension.

4. All requirements are thereafter evaluated each quarter or payment period there is academic activity.
5. The minimum FASAP requirements are grade point average (GPA) and course completion ratio. The undergraduate- and graduate-specific GPA and ratio requirements are described in sections III.A, III.B, and VI.A.
6. Transfer credits
 - a. Transfer credits applied toward a learner's degree program reduce the number of credits required for the completion of that degree program. Transfer credit that is not accepted cannot be applied toward the completion ratio of a learner's degree program.
 - b. The number of transfer credits applied toward a learner's degree program affects the cumulative attempted credits or program points in the learner's course completion ratio. Transfer credits count toward both earned and attempted credits or program points when calculating the course completion ratio.
 - c. The number of transfer credits affects the learner's maximum limit of earned credits required, as follows:
 - i. Example: BS requires 180 earned credits; the learner transfers in 70 credits, resulting in 110 credits remaining.
 - ii. In the above example, the degree program requirements are based on the number of earned credits remaining for a learner to complete his or her degree program; in this case, 110 earned credits.
 - iii. The number of earned credits remaining is the basis for the maximum attempted credits calculation, as defined in sections III.A, III.B, and VI.B.
- C. Learners whose total number of attempted credits or program points exceeds the limit for their degree or certificate program will become ineligible for financial aid for all future quarters or payment periods.
- D. Notification of financial aid status

Learners will receive an email notification from the Financial Aid Office when they have been placed on financial aid warning or probation or become ineligible for financial aid. However, it is the learner's responsibility to know these requirements, and failure to receive the notification does not nullify the financial aid status.
- E. Appeal of financial aid ineligibility
 1. Learners who Capella determines are meeting the minimum FASAP requirements by the end of their program or who Capella believes have had an administrative error made on their record may appeal their financial aid ineligibility.
 2. Learners may also appeal their financial aid ineligibility due to extenuating circumstances. To appeal their financial aid ineligibility, learners must complete and submit the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form.
 - a. Extenuating circumstances may include but are not limited to the death of a family member, job-required relocation, or severe physical injury or illness. Documentation of the circumstance must be provided by parties other

- than the learner; for example, a death certificate, a letter from the learner's supervisor, or a letter from the learner's physician must accompany the request.
- b. Learners must include an explanation of the extenuating circumstances surrounding their financial aid ineligibility and the impact the extenuating circumstances had on their academic progress. Learners must also indicate the steps they will take to meet the minimum FASAP requirements. The case will be determined on the documentation/evidence supplied by the learner.
3. Learners have 10 calendar days from the date the notification of their financial aid ineligibility was sent to submit their appeal. Learners who do not meet this deadline will remain ineligible for financial aid until they are meeting the minimum FASAP requirements.
 4. The Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee will review the appeal and make a determination.
 - a. Within 10 calendar days of receipt of the appeal and any requested supporting documentation, the committee will review the appeal and issue a decision.
 - b. Learners will receive an email notification of the committee's decision and appeal results.
 - c. The committee's decision is final.
 5. Appeal results
 - a. Learners whose appeals are approved will be required to adhere to a Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Plan developed by the committee that, when followed, will ensure the learner will be able to meet the minimum FASAP requirements by an established date.
 - b. Learners who meet the conditions of their Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Plan will remain eligible for financial aid for the subsequent quarter or payment period.
 - c. Learners who fail to meet the conditions of their Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Plan will remain ineligible for financial aid until they are meeting the minimum FASAP requirements.
 - d. Learners whose appeals are approved will be placed on financial aid probation and will remain eligible for financial aid for the current quarter or payment period. At the end of the quarter or payment period, learners will be re-evaluated to see whether they are able to meet the minimum FASAP requirements.
 - e. Learners whose appeals are denied will remain ineligible for financial aid until they are meeting the minimum FASAP requirements.
 - f. Learners in credit-based (GuidedPath) programs whose appeals are denied must pay all outstanding charges within seven calendar days of being sent notification of their appeal denial. Learners who do not pay all outstanding charges will be withdrawn from all courses for which they are currently registered, and tuition charges for the quarter will be reversed.
 - g. FlexPath learners whose appeals are denied must pay all outstanding charges by the end of each billing session. Learners who do not pay all outstanding charges by the deadline will lose course access for current and future courses.
 6. Removal of FASAP financial aid probation or ineligibility status

Learners will be removed from financial aid probation or ineligibility status upon meeting the minimum FASAP requirements described in section III.A, III.B, and VI.A.

7. Learners will receive an email notification from the Financial Aid Office when they have been removed from financial aid probation or ineligibility status.

III. Minimum Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP) Requirements for Learners in Credit-Based (GuidedPath) Programs

A. Undergraduate Learners

FASAP for undergraduate learners is evaluated on two requirements. Learners must meet both to maintain FASAP.

1. FASAP requirements

a. Minimum cumulative GPA

- i. Undergraduate learners must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.
- ii. The cumulative GPA is calculated for all undergraduate activity.

b. Minimum course completion ratio

- i. Undergraduate learners must complete a minimum of two out of every three attempted credits (course completion ratio of 67 percent of cumulative attempted credits).
- ii. The course completion ratio is calculated for all undergraduate activity. A learner's earned and attempted credits include any transfer credits applied toward their Capella program.
- iii. Example: A learner transfers in 25 credits to their Capella program and has completed 10 out of 60 attempted credits of Capella courses. This means he or she has attempted 85 credits and earned a cumulative total of 35 credits. Since the number of earned credits divided by the attempted credits is less than 67 percent ($35/85 = 41$ percent), the learner does not meet the course completion ratio requirement. Learners will be notified by the Financial Aid Office when their course completion ratio is between 67–79.99 percent.

2. Maximum attempted credits

Undergraduate learners are not eligible for federal financial aid for any attempted credits that exceed 150 percent of the undergraduate degree program requirements.

- a. Example: If the number of earned credits required to meet degree program requirements (after applied transfer credits) is 110, the maximum number of attempted credits allowed is 165 (110×150 percent).
- b. Learners will be notified by the Financial Aid Office when they are within 18 to 24 credits of exceeding the 150 percent rule.
- c. Learners will become immediately ineligible for financial aid once they have exceeded the 150 percent rule.

B. Graduate Learners

FASAP for graduate learners is evaluated on two requirements. Learners must meet both to maintain FASAP. In addition, doctoral learners engaged in the advanced doctoral phase of their program must meet additional requirements related to timely completion of their comprehensive examination and dissertation or doctoral capstone requirements as noted in the Capella University *Doctoral Manual*.

1. FASAP requirements
 - a. Minimum cumulative GPA
 - i. Learners must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
 - ii. The cumulative GPA is calculated for all graduate activity.
 - b. Minimum course completion ratio
 - i. Graduate learners must complete a minimum of one out of every two attempted credits (course completion ratio of 50 percent of cumulative attempted credits).
 - ii. The course completion ratio is calculated for all graduate activity. A learner's earned and attempted credits include any transfer credits they have applied toward their Capella program.
 - iii. Example: A learner transfers in 25 credits toward their Capella program and has completed 10 out of 60 attempted credits of Capella courses. This means he or she has attempted 85 credits and earned a cumulative of 35 credits. Since the number of earned credits divided by the number of attempted credits is less than 50 percent ($35/85 = 41$ percent), the learner does not meet the course completion ratio requirement. Learners will be notified by the Financial Aid Office when their course completion ratio is between 50–59.99 percent.

2. Maximum attempted credits

Graduate learners are not eligible for federal financial aid for any attempted credits that exceed 200 percent of the graduate degree program requirements.

- a. Example: If the number of earned credits required to meet degree program requirements (after applied transfer credits) is 110, the maximum number of attempted credits allowed is 220 (110×200 percent).
- b. Learners will be notified by the Financial Aid Office when they are within 12 to 16 credits of exceeding the 200 percent rule.
- c. Learners will become immediately ineligible for financial aid once they have exceeded the 200 percent rule.

C. Advanced Doctoral Learners

1. Learners who are engaged in the advanced doctoral phase of their program are considered in compliance with this policy.
2. FASAP for learners engaged in the advanced doctoral phase of their program is evaluated by the successful completion of the comprehensive examination, dissertation, or doctoral capstone requirements within the prescribed deadlines described in the Capella University *Doctoral Manual*.

IV. Failure to Maintain Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP) for Learners in Credit-Based (GuidedPath) Programs

This section does not apply to doctoral learners engaged in the advanced doctoral phase of their program. Doctoral learners engaged in the advanced doctoral phase of their program should refer to section V.

A. Financial Aid Warning

1. Criteria/Notification

- a. Learners will be placed on financial aid warning status when they fail to maintain the minimum FASAP requirements described in sections III.A and III.B.
 - b. Learners will receive an email notification from the Financial Aid Office when they have been placed on financial aid warning status.
 - 2. Removal of FASAP warning status
 - a. Learners will be removed from financial aid warning status upon meeting the minimum FASAP requirements described in sections III.A and III.B.
 - b. Learners will receive an email notification from the Financial Aid Office when they have been removed from financial aid warning status.
 - B. Financial Aid Ineligibility
 - 1. Criteria/Notification
 - a. Learners will be placed on financial aid ineligibility status when they fail to maintain the minimum FASAP requirements described in sections III.A and III.B.
 - b. Learners will receive an email notification from the Financial Aid Office when they have been placed on financial aid ineligibility status.
- V. Failure to Maintain Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP) for Advanced Doctoral Phase Learners
- Learners engaged in the advanced doctoral phase of their program who fail to maintain FASAP as defined in section III.C will be considered out of compliance with this policy and will be administratively withdrawn from the university pursuant to university policy *3.01.04 Academic Standing*.
- VI. Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP) Process for FlexPath Learners
- FASAP is measured at the end of each payment period for all FlexPath learners who receive federal financial aid. FlexPath learners must meet the minimum requirements for their career level as described in this section.
- A. FASAP requirements for FlexPath
- 1. Learners who are enrolled in the FlexPath option are required to successfully complete every competency within each course. Learners who fall below the minimum standard of performance for their career level on one course competency will be placed on financial aid warning. Failure to meet the minimum standard for two course competencies will result in financial aid ineligibility. Refer to section VII of this policy for more information.
 - a. Undergraduate learners are required to perform at a minimum standard of “Basic” for every competency within a course.
 - b. Graduate learners are required to perform at a minimum standard of “Proficient” for every competency within a course.
 - 2. Learners enrolled in FlexPath will be required to meet the competency completion ratios outlined below:
 - a. Undergraduate learners must complete a minimum of two out of every three program points attempted (competency completion ratio of 67 percent of cumulative attempted program points).

- b. Graduate learners must complete a minimum of one out of every two program points attempted (competency completion ratio of 50 percent of cumulative attempted program points).
- B. Maximum attempted program points
 - 1. Graduate learners are not eligible for federal financial aid for any attempted program points that exceed 200 percent of the graduate degree program requirements.
 - 2. Undergraduate learners are not eligible for federal financial aid for any attempted program points that exceed 150 percent of the undergraduate degree program requirements.
- C. Repeating Courses

When a learner repeats a FlexPath course, the course in which the learner demonstrates all competencies at a level required for conferral will be the one used to determine completion of FlexPath requirements.

 - 1. Each course attempt appears on the transcript.
 - 2. All attempts are used to evaluate the learner's completion percentage for evaluation of FASAP. Refer to university policies *2.02.02 Course Registration*, *3.04.07 Grading*, and *3.04.08 Incomplete Grades* for more information.
- D. Changing from the FlexPath option to the credit-based (GuidedPath) delivery model
 - 1. When learners change from FlexPath to the credit-based (GuidedPath) model, performance evaluations for courses taken through the FlexPath option will be converted to the equivalent credit-based (GuidedPath) model grades.
 - 2. Program points attempted and earned in the FlexPath option will be converted into credits (1:2 ratio) to allow for completion rate review and maximum attempted credits to be calculated.
 - 3. Transfer credits will be converted from program points to credits for both attempted and completed courses.
 - 4. Courses repeated will fall under the repeating courses procedures outlined in university policy *2.02.02 Course Registration*.
- E. Changing from the credit-based (GuidedPath) program delivery model to the FlexPath option
 - 1. Any current or former learner must meet the admission requirements for FlexPath and be in good standing for both university policies *3.01.05 Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress* and *3.01.04 Academic Standing* to request a change to the FlexPath option.
 - 2. Credits attempted and earned in the credit-based (GuidedPath) model will be converted into program points (2:1 ratio). This will allow for completion rate and maximum attempted credits to be calculated in FlexPath.
 - 3. Transfer credits will be converted from credits to program points for both attempted and completed courses.
 - 4. Information about repeating courses is outlined in section VI.C.

VII. Failure to Maintain Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP) for FlexPath Learners

Learners in the FlexPath option will receive an email notification from the Financial Aid Office when they have been placed on financial aid warning or become ineligible for

financial aid for failure to meet the minimum FASAP requirements for their career level as outlined in section VI.A. FlexPath learners may appeal their financial aid ineligibility as described in section II.E.

POLICY OWNERS

Academic Owner: Financial Aid Office

Operations Owner: Financial Aid Office

RELATED DOCUMENTS

University policy 2.01.01 Admission

University policy 2.02.02 Course Registration

University policy 3.01.04 Academic Standing

University policy 3.04.01 Academic Readiness

University policy 3.04.07 Grading

University policy 3.04.08 Incomplete Grades

REVISION HISTORY

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