

Federal and state regulations require that students maintain satisfactory academic progress while pursuing their course of study in order to receive financial aid. Students receiving financial aid will have their academic records reviewed each semester, including the summer term, to determine if satisfactory academic progress is being made and that the pace toward the completion of a degree, certificate, or diploma is maintained. Satisfactory academic progress standards apply to all work attempted even though a student may not have been receiving financial aid.

Minimum Financial Aid Academic Progress Standards

A minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average for ALL coursework at Ellsworth Community College is required. In addition, a student must complete 67% of ALL credits ever attempted at Ellsworth Community College. "Complete" means earning a letter grade higher than a F. In addition to the cumulative standards addressed (grade point average and % of credits completed), a student will be placed on immediate financial aid termination if he/she earns a semester grade point average of .50 or below, unless the cumulative GPA is 2.0 or above.

Financial Aid Warning

A student who has received financial aid is placed on *financial aid warning* when he/she fails to maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or fails to complete 67% of all hours attempted. **A student on financial aid warning continues to receive financial aid.**

Financial Aid Termination

If a student does not meet the minimum levels by the end of the warning semester, the student is considered to be making unsatisfactory progress and is placed on Financial Aid Termination. **Financial Aid Termination means a student is no longer eligible for financial aid.** A student may regain eligibility for financial assistance after he/she has brought coursework up to minimum standards (2.0 cumulative GPA and a completion rate of at least 67% of all hours attempted) at his/her own expense.

Appeal Process

A student may appeal the termination of his/her financial aid to the Financial Aid Office if he/she feels that there are extenuating circumstances (serious illness, injury, death of a relative, etc.). Student must be able to include documentation. Appeal forms are available from the Financial Aid Office. Appeals must include an explanation that prevented student from meeting the standards and explain what has changed with your situation that would now make you successful if we granted your appeal.

Forms will be accepted no later than the Friday before the first day of classes of the semester that the student wishes to be considered. The ECC Appeals Committee will review all appeals and respond in writing as soon as a decision is made. A student whose appeal is accepted and financial aid eligibility is reinstated will be placed on *Financial Aid Probation and must complete an academic success plan. If the student does not meet SAP Standards, however meets the expectations of the academic success plan, they will be placed on Success Plan status. While on Success Plan status, the student must follow the plan requirements for each semester the plan is written for to remain eligible or until they reach the minimum SAP Standards. If the student fails to meet the SAP Standards and also fails to follow their academic success plan they will be placed on termination.*

Pace/Maximum Timeframe for Degree Completion

A student will be eligible to receive financial aid while pursuing his/her program of study for 150% of the published length of the program. For example, an Associate of Arts (AA) degree requires successful completion of 64 credit hours. The maximum hours a student could receive financial aid toward the completion of an AA degree would be 96 credit hours (64 x 150% = 96). All coursework (including ESL and transfer credits that are accepted from another institution toward the student's educational program will be counted as both attempted and completed hours) on a student's academic transcript will count toward the maximum timeframe. A student who exceeds 150% of the published length of a program will no longer be eligible for financial aid.

Repeated classes are allowed for courses where an F or W was received. Students who wish to repeat a previously passed class should meet with the Financial Aid Office to ensure eligibility. Repeated classes are counted as attempted credit each time it is attempted and earned credit once. Classes that a student chooses to audit will not count toward the hourly requirements. Students taking developmental coursework must be registered for at least one non-developmental course to be receiving financial aid for that term.

Incomplete grades are considered credit attempted but not earned until which time credit is earned for the incomplete class (grade change). Students are required to notify the ECC Financial Office upon a grade change in order to perform a recalculation of SAP.

Notification

It is the responsibility of each student to track his/her own progress and academic standing. However, the Financial Aid Office will make every effort to notify students of warning/termination status in a timely manner at the end of each semester.