What is Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

- SAP is the successful completion of coursework towards an eligible certificate of degree.

- Federal regulations required the Office of Student Financial Aid to monitor the academic progress of students receiving financial aid.

- Students' entire academic record is looked at for SAP, even for semesters when financial aid wasn't received.
Undergraduate SAP Standards

• Minimum GPA
  – 2.0 UI GPA
  – Transfer GPA not considered

• Minimum pace
  – Completed hours divided by attempted hours
  – Must be greater than or equal to 67%
  – Includes entire transfer and UI hours
Undergraduate SAP Standards

• Duration of eligibility
  – Equal to 150% of the semester hours of the intended degree program
  – 180 attempted hours for most programs
  – 192 attempted hours for engineering and nursing
Graduate SAP Standards

- GPA determined by college policies for academic probation
  - 2.0 for all programs except MBA (2.75)
- 67% pace
- Duration of eligibility
  - Varies by degree type
    - Ex: MA is 75 attempted hours
SAP Review Process

• All students are reviewed in May for GPA, pace and duration of eligibility

• All students are reviewed in January and August for duration of eligibility

• Students on SAP probation are reviewed each semester
SAP Ineligibility

• Not eligible – GPA

• Not eligible – Pace

• Not eligible – Pace and GPA

• Not eligible – Duration of eligibility
SAP Review Numbers

• Spring 2022 review
  – 800 students eligible to not eligible
    • 380 of these students had appeals approved for future aid
  – 51 students not eligible to eligible
  – Probation students
    • 46 probation to eligible
    • 81 probation to not eligible
    • 56 extended probation
SAP Appeal Process

- Students are notified by UI email if they are SAP ineligible and their future financial aid is cancelled.

- Students can regain eligibility by completing a SAP appeal:
  - Found in MyUI

- Generally, up to 3 appeals are accepted.
SAP Appeal Deadlines

- Appeals are due by the first Friday of classes for fall and spring
- Due by June 15th for summer
- Deadline helps students plan accordingly if appeal is not approved
SAP Appeal Form

• Section 1: Basic contact information
• Section 2: Explanation of past performance
• Section 3: Steps for future success
• Section 4: Plan of study
• Section 5: Advisor certification
SAP Appeal Review

• Financial aid advisors review 1st, 2nd, and 3rd appeals

• Advisors are looking for whether the reason for the appeal has changed and if the appeal is complete

• Advisors will outreach to students with relevant resources based on the reasons for appeal

• Appeals beyond the third appeal are reviewed by senior SAP advisor and associate director

• Scholarship appeals are a separate process from SAP appeals
SAP Probation

• Once appeal is accepted, student is placed on SAP probation
  – Needs to achieve certain GPA and pace each semester to extend probation

• Student is notified by UI email when appeal is accepted and the probation requirements

• Probation requirements can also be viewed in MyUI
SAP Appeal Denied

• An appeal may be denied because
  – 3 appeals have already been accepted
  – The reason for the appeal has not changed

• Student can re-appeal after:
  – Sitting out from UI for one semester and submitting a new appeal OR
  – Taking classes without federal aid for one semester and earning a 2.0
    semester GPA and passing 67% of the classes attempted

• Students can also regain eligibility by bringing up pace or GPA
  without federal aid
Eligibility when Degree Requirements are Met

- At the end of each semester, Registrar provides a list of students who have met degree requirements and have not graduated.

- If a student has completed all major and gen ed requirements, they would lose federal financial aid eligibility (minor and certificate courses are not eligible).

- If a student is still working on a second major they would lose Pell grant and SEOG eligibility, but can still have loans and work-study.
How do students know about SAP policy?

• Email sent to students at the start of each semester explaining policies to maintain aid

• Close contact with academic advising offices to ensure they are up to date on policies

• Financial aid website
Resources

• SAP Standards
  – https://financialaid.uiowa.edu/eligibility/sap

• Eligibility after degree requirements are met
  – https://financialaid.uiowa.edu/eligibility/sap/firstbachelors