



College of Law Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Overview

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is defined as the successful completion of coursework toward an eligible certificate or degree. Federal regulations require the University of Iowa's College of Law (Iowa Law) to monitor the academic progress of students receiving financial aid.

Same as or Stricter Than

Iowa Law SAP policy is the same as the qualitative academic standards for students enrolled in the College of Law. Those standards are outlined below for GPA. These GPA standards are stricter than federal requirement 2.0 for SAP standards.

Qualitative Measure (GPA)

Students who are eligible for SAP are checked for their GPAs after the end of the spring semester. Students on probation are monitored at the end of each semester.

Iowa Law students must conclude their first academic year with at least a 2.8 GPA. Iowa Law students must then maintain a 2.8 GPA for their subsequent years in the program. Transfer credits are not included in the SAP GPA calculation. Undergraduate credits do not contribute to a student's Iowa Law GPA.

Students who do not meet the GPA requirement for SAP after the spring semester are no longer eligible for federal financial aid and must complete a SAP appeal to receive federal financial aid for the subsequent semester.

Quantitative Measures (Pace and Duration)

Pace is defined as the course completion rate. A student who falls below this pace is no longer on track to complete their program within the maximum timeframe and is therefore made SAP ineligible at that point.

Pace:

The minimum pace requirement for all categories of students is 67%. This is calculated by dividing total credits completed (grades of A, B, C, D, S or P) by total credits attempted (completed semester hours plus grades of F, N, U, W, O or I). The pace calculation is rounded to the nearest full percentage (ex: 66.4% = 66% and 66.5% = 67%). Transfer credits that are accepted from another institution are included in the pace calculation and count as both attempted and completed hours. Generally, remedial courses are included in the pace calculation as both attempted and completed hours, but do not impact GPA.

Pace is evaluated for all students at the end of the spring semester.

Duration:

Federal guidelines allow professional programs to set their own standard. Iowa Law JD students must complete their degree within 132 attempted credits. Iowa Law SJD students must complete their degree within 36 attempted credits. Iowa Law LLM students must complete their degree within 36 credits.

Transfer hours accepted toward the Iowa Law program are included in the calculation of the duration of eligibility.

Your duration limit will be automatically updated if your major or degree changes and will be reviewed under those SAP standards during the next review period.

If you exceed the hours attempted (all hours taken including W, F, U, N, O, and I grades) listed above, a SAP appeal will be required to receive financial aid.

Evaluation Periods

GPA and Pace is evaluated for all student categories after the end of the spring semester. Students are notified by email if they become SAP ineligible after the spring semester. Duration is evaluated at the end of each semester. Students are also evaluated each semester to see if they can become eligible based on GPA and/or pace and are notified by email if they become eligible.

Office of Financial Aid

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Office of Student Financial Aid

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Financial Aid Probation

Students with an approved SAP appeal are placed on financial aid probation for one semester. Students on financial aid probation are required to maintain a specific GPA (either semester or cumulative) and complete at least 67% of the semester hours they attempt.

If a student does not complete these requirements after one semester on financial aid probation, they are no longer eligible for financial aid for the next semester and must submit an additional SAP appeal. If a student meets their probation requirements but are not meeting overall SAP standards they are placed on an academic plan for the next semester. If a student meets their probation requirements and is now meeting overall SAP standards, they are eligible for aid and are no longer on probation or an academic plan.

SAP Appeals

Students can appeal the GPA, pace, or duration components of SAP. Students are informed of the appeal process via email after they are determined to be SAP ineligible. Students also receive reminder emails about the appeal process.

Appeals are submitted through Iowa Law. The deadline for submitting a SAP appeal is the first Friday of classes in the fall and spring semesters and June 15 for the summer semester. Appeals are reviewed within 15 business days of receipt. The student will be notified by UI email if the appeal is accepted or denied. Students may appeal multiple times, however, appeals beyond the third appeal are rarely accepted.

Appeals are automatically denied if the student has been reported as not attending or receiving a grade below a C- in at least one class at midterm.

Before an appeal is complete the student must work with their Academic Advisor to get their approval on the plan of study portion of the SAP appeal.

A student may file a SAP Appeal on the basis of:

- death of a relative
- injury or illness of the student
- other special circumstances (such as a difficult transition to UI, family issues, legal troubles, work or budget problems, etc.)

Documentation

Appeals are considered on an individual basis. Depending on the nature of the appeal, the number of appeals the student has filed, and/or the student's academic record, additional documentation may be required of the student before the appeal can be accepted. For example, the student may be asked to provide supporting documentation from a doctor, counselor, etc.

Students are asked to answer two questions on the SAP appeal explaining why they did not meet SAP standards and how they will meet SAP standards in the future. In many cases, this explanation is sufficient to approve an appeal. However, we will also accept supporting documentation from a student, especially when this is not their first appeal. Supporting documentation may include a letter/statement from a doctor or counselor, academic advisor or faculty/staff member, or other relevant third party.

Extending Probation (Academic Plan)

Students who meet their probation requirements but are not overall meeting SAP eligibility requirements are placed on an academic plan and can have their probation extended an additional semester. Students who are on an academic plan must maintain a GPA and pace requirement. The GPA requirement may be semester or cumulative depending on the student. The pace requirement is completing 67% of the courses they attempt that semester. Students on an academic plan are monitored at the end of each semester by the Iowa Law to see if they met the GPA/pace requirements before their probation is extended an additional semester.

Regaining Eligibility

Students who are not meeting SAP requirements for GPA or pace may regain eligibility on their own without submitting an appeal by attending and achieving overall SAP requirements without the assistance of federal financial aid. Students who are not meeting SAP requirements are checked each semester and are made eligible for federal aid if they are now meeting overall SAP requirements.

The same process applies to students who have submitted a SAP appeal that has been denied: they can attend without the use of federal financial aid. Students who have been denied a SAP appeal can re-appeal after one semester without federal aid. These students are monitored each semester and are made eligible for federal aid if they are now meeting overall SAP requirements.

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Course Repeats

Students receiving an F in a course may repeat that course and receive financial aid for it until the course is passed. Students receiving a passing grade (D- or better) and retaking the course may only receive financial aid for that course one additional time. Repeated courses will be counted towards both the pace, GPA, and duration of eligibility components of SAP.

Incompletes

An Incomplete will count as attempted hours but will not count as completed hours (therefore affecting pace). Once a grade, passing or failing, is assigned that grade will be incorporated into the next SAP review. **An incomplete may negatively affect a student's pace and aid eligibility.**

Withdrawals

A withdrawn course will count as attempted hours but will not count as completed hours in the SAP pace calculation.

Retroactive Grade Changes

SAP eligibility is based on a grade check after final grades are posted and before the next semester has started. Grade changes that occur after final grades have posted can be considered on a case-by-case basis based on student request. Contact the Office of Student Financial Aid to see if your grades can be reviewed based on any retroactive changes.

Pass/Fail and Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grades

A grade of P/N is not included in the calculation of GPA. Grades of P/N will count towards the calculation of SAP pace. P grades count as a completed course. N grades do not count as a completed course. Grades of P/N will count towards the SAP duration of eligibility limits.

Consortium Agreements

Hours taken under a consortium agreement are included in the pace/duration calculation, but not the GPA calculation for a student.

Notices

The University of Iowa's SAP Policy is available on our website. Each semester all students receive an eligibility email with information about SAP and links to the SAP policy.

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