FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) POLICY
HEA Sec. 484(c), 34 CFR 668.16(e), 34 CFR 668.32(f), 34 CFR 668.34
REVISED FOR SPRING 2024

14.0 INTRODUCTION

Federal and state regulations require that students receiving financial aid be enrolled as a regular student in a financial aid eligible program. An eligible program is one that leads to an associate or bachelor's degree, a two-year program leading to a vocational certificate, or a specialized program that meets federal criteria. Continued eligibility requires meeting the criteria for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). It is the responsibility of all financial aid recipients to understand the terms and conditions of the Napa Valley College (NVC) Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy in order to maintain their eligibility to receive aid. Making SAP means meeting all the standards and requirements of this policy.

14.1 STANDARDS

Three standards are used for the assessment of Satisfactory Academic Progress. These standards are reviewed at the end of each semester and are subject to change.

STANDARD #1: QUALITATIVE GPA

Students are required to maintain a 2.0 minimum cumulative GPA. The GPA will include all aided and unaided terms at NVC.

STANDARD #2: QUANTITATIVE PACE

Minimum PACE at NVC is 67% of all cumulative units attempted. PACE is the rate at which a student completes requirements for their educational goal and is calculated by dividing the number of cumulative units completed by the number of cumulative units attempted. Beginning with Spring 2024, remedial and ESL units do not count when calculating Pace for SAP.

To measure whether students are progressing on pace for completion of their course of study within the maximum time frame, NVC evaluates the pace rate of financial aid students at the end of each term. At each term's end, students are expected to have completed at least 67% of all units eliminated from the GPA calculation through the previously attended will count as both units attempted

All financial aid students are expected to complete their program of study within 150% of the program. Students enrolled in 60-unit AA/AS, 4-year transfer, or vocational pro

14.2 SAP EVALUATION

SAP will be evaluated at the end of each semester. The number of units a student attempts and completes will be used to calculate SAP status. Clock hour programs are evaluated at the end of each payment period.

A. SATISFACTORY

SATISFACTORY is the status assigned to a student in good standing who is making SAP and is not subject to disqualification.

B. WARNING

WARNING is the status assigned to a satisfactory student who fails to make SAP. A student on WARNING status may continue to receive aid for one semester only. WARNING status does not require an appeal or other student action. In addition, students who have never applied for financial aid will be placed on Warning if their cumulative GPA is below 2.0 and/or if their cumulative PACE rate is below 67% at the time they enter the Financial Aid program.

At the end of the WARNING semester, a student is required to meet SAP standards. Students who have failed to make

    4) achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better, and

    5) achieve a minimum 67% PACE.

B. Students who complete a semester on DISQUALIFICATION must have their academic progress reviewed before financial aid eligibility is determined for the following semester. If eligibility is established, students must submit a written request for reinstatement of their financial aid awards.

C. Under certain circumstances, students who are DISQUALIFIED from financial aid may submit a Financial Aid Appeal.

14.4 APPEAL

A. Napa Valley College implemented a COVID-19 Excused Withdrawal (EW) grade and a COVID-19 drop reason code to identify students who withdrew from classes due to COVID-related reasons.

    a. Beginning Spring 2023, classes dropped with an "EW" grade are not automatically excluded from attempted credits when the SAP calculation is run each semester. Students who receive an "EW" grade due to COVID-19 must submit a written request to exclude the "EW" grade along with a copy of their approved Late Add/Drop and Waiver of College Regulations Petition.

    b. Beginning Spring 2023, classes dropped with a COVID-19 drop status (but n D- 1-