



NASFAA U Authorized Event Overview of Satisfactory Academic Progress

National Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators

**Overview of Satisfactory
Academic Progress**
A NASFAA Authorized Event*

Presented by
Joan Hock/PASFAA Fundamentals Workshop

October 25, 2021

*For training purposes only; not for credential preparation. Slide 3 © 2020 NASFAA

3

Agenda

- SAP Requirements
- Evaluating SAP
- Loss of Eligibility
- Appeals, Probation and Academic Plans
- Additional SAP Policy Elements

Slide 4 © 2020 NASFAA

4

SAP General Policy Requirements

Same As or
Stricter Than

For all
categories
of students

Evaluation
Components

- Quantitative
- Qualitative
- Other factors

Assessment

- Warning
- Probation
- Appeals

Slide 5 © 2020 NASFAA

5



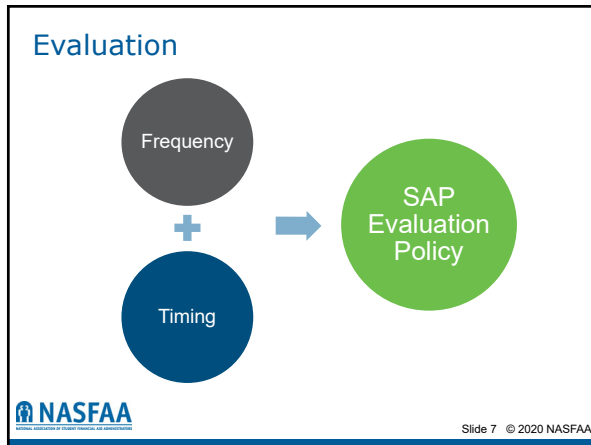
NASFAA U Authorized Event Overview of Satisfactory Academic Progress

Consumer Information Requirements

Prospective Students	Currently Enrolled Students
Readily available in paper or electronic format	
Accessible to the public	Easily accessible to students
Describe standards for maintaining and re-establishing Title IV aid eligibility	
Not via restricted intranet	If online, provide exact URL
	Annual notice of SAP policy
	SAP evaluation results, if eligibility is affected

Slide 6 © 2020 NASFAA

6



7

Quantitative Component

- Pace:

$$\frac{\text{Cumulative Credit Hours Completed}}{\text{Cumulative Credit Hours Attempted}}$$

$$\frac{\text{Successfully Completed Hours}}{\text{Scheduled Hours}}$$

$$\frac{\text{Weeks needed to successfully complete hours attended}}{\text{Actual weeks attended}}$$

Slide 8 © 2020 NASFAA

8



NASFAA U Authorized Event Overview of Satisfactory Academic Progress

Quantitative Component

Maximum Timeframe	
Undergraduate: 150% of published length of program	Graduate: Defined by the school, based on length of program

Slide 9 © 2020 NASFAA

9

Quantitative Component

- Graduated quantitative standard (optional)
- Transfer students
 - Credits accepted count in both completed and attempted hours

Slide 10 © 2020 NASFAA

10

Example: Henri

POLICY

Number of Completed Credits	Pace
0 - 15	60%
16 - 30	65%
31 or more	70%

} Graduated Standard

HENRI

Term	Completed Credits	Attempted Credits	Pace
Fall 2020	9	15	60%
Spring 2021	11	15	67%
Summer 2021	6	9	67%

Slide 11 © 2020 NASFAA

11



NASFAA U Authorized Event Overview of Satisfactory Academic Progress

Example: Zeb

Completed Clock Hours	Scheduled Clock Hours	Pace
450	600	75%
900	1410	64%
1200	1860	65%

At 1200 completed hours/1860 scheduled hours or 40 weeks of completed coursework/62 weeks, he is still not making SAP.

- Program length:
 - 1500 clock hours
 - 50 weeks
- Review after first payment period:
 - Completion of 450 clock hours over 20 weeks
- Pace expectation is 67%



Slide 12 © 2020 NASFAA

12

Qualitative Component

- Quality of the student's work
 - Grade Point Average
 - Comparable Qualitative Measure
 - Graduated Standard
- Equivalent of a "C" or better



Slide 13 © 2020 NASFAA

13

Example: Anabelle

- Cumulative GPA of at least 2.0
- SAP review after each semester

Met GPA requirement →

Course	Grade	Total Grade Points
Composition	A	12
Chemistry	B	9
American Government	A	12
Calculus I	C	6
Psychology	A	12
		GPA = 3.4



Slide 14 © 2020 NASFAA

14



NASFAA U Authorized Event

Overview of Satisfactory Academic Progress

Example: Mikhail

POLICY

Term	Minimum GPA
1	1.5
2	1.8
3 and subsequent	2.0

Graduated Standard

MIKHAIL

Term	Total Grade Points	Cumulative GPA
1	18	1.50
2	39	1.86
3	60	2.22

Slide 15 © 2020 NASFAA

15

Example: Marlin

POLICY

Number of Badges Earned	Academic Achievement Level
12	Outstanding
10-11	Good
8-9	Acceptable
6-7	Poor
5 or Fewer	Unacceptable

Comparable Measure

MARLIN

Payment Period	Badges Earned	Cumulative Badges	Cumulative Achievement Percentage
1	11	11	91.7
2	10	21	87.5
3	8	29	80.5
4	12	41	85.4

Slide 16 © 2020 NASFAA

16

Loss of Eligibility

- Failure to make SAP results in immediate loss of Title IV aid eligibility
- Eligibility may be regained if:
 - Pay for classes without federal financial aid
 - Successfully appeal
- School decides whether to allow appeals

Slide 17 © 2020 NASFAA

17



NASFAA U Authorized Event Overview of Satisfactory Academic Progress

SAP Appeals

Conditions and Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define acceptable reasons • No regulatory limits on appeals
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student's circumstances • Actions taken on an appeal
Processing SAP Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps to follow • Making appeal decisions

Slide 18 © 2020 NASFAA

18

Financial Aid Probation

Slide 19 © 2020 NASFAA

19

Financial Aid Probation

- May be granted only after successful appeal
- May follow or replace financial aid warning
- School may choose to limit number of times
- One payment period only
 - Potential must exist for student to make SAP by end of the payment period
 - If still failing, student is ineligible unless subsequent appeal results in academic plan

Slide 20 © 2020 NASFAA

20



NASFAA U Authorized Event Overview of Satisfactory Academic Progress

Academic Plans

- Long-range plan for success
 - Tailored to the student's unique needs
 - Appropriate checkpoints and milestones
 - Specific point in time for meeting SAP standards
 - May extend beyond 150% maximum timeframe
- May be granted only after successful appeal
- May follow or replace financial aid warning or probation



Slide 21 © 2020 NASFAA

21

Academic Plans

- School reviews progress after first payment period
- Subsequent reviews may align with school's SAP review cycle or happen more often
- Failure to follow the plan results in loss of Title IV eligibility



Slide 22 © 2020 NASFAA

22

Re-Establishing Eligibility



- SAP policy must describe how to re-establish eligibility
 - Financial aid warning
 - Appeal, if available
 - Attend without Title IV aid
- Students must be notified
 - School policies and procedures
 - Consequences of failure
 - How to re-establish eligibility



Slide 23 © 2020 NASFAA

23



NASFAA U Authorized Event

Overview of Satisfactory Academic Progress

Additional SAP Policy Elements

- W Withdrawals and nonattendance
- I Incomplete courses or grades
- G Grade changes
- R Repeated coursework
- T Transfer hours

Slide 24 © 2020 NASFAA

24

Additional SAP Policy Elements

School policy required

- Audited Courses
- Pass-or-Fail Courses
- Remedial Coursework
- English as a Second Language
- Continuing Education or Enrichment Courses
- Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program

Slide 25 © 2020 NASFAA

25

Additional SAP Policy Elements

School must determine SAP treatment

- Multiple Degrees or Credentials
- Double Majors
- Change of Program
- Academic Amnesty

Slide 26 © 2020 NASFAA

26



NASFAA U Authorized Event Overview of Satisfactory Academic Progress

CARES Act

- Allows schools to exclude the quantitative component (pace) if student unable to completed due to COVID emergency
- Not necessary for student to appeal
- School must make a reasonable determination that failure to meet pace was result of COVID emergency
- Maximum time frame calculation included



Slide 27 © 2020 NASFAA

27



How does your school's SAP policy address incomplete grades?

Does your school use the financial aid warning and/or financial aid probation statuses? If so, how does your school structure its appeal process? Does your school have an Appeals Committee, or is only written documentation permitted?

Should all schools be required to evaluate SAP after each payment period?



Slide 28 © 2020 NASFAA

28



29
