

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

Institutions participating in Title IV Federal aid programs are required by the United States Department of Education to establish institutional policies which define and measure the quantitative and qualitative progress of eligible students. Each student who receives Federal financial aid at Coastal Carolina University is required to maintain satisfactory academic progress toward completion of his/her program of study.

Coastal Carolina University's Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy:

1. Students must be admitted and enrolled as a degree-seeking student.
2. Students must meet the University's standards for continued enrollment as specified in the Academic Standing section of the University Catalog. A petition for continued enrollment granted by the Academic Suspension Petitions Committee does not constitute evidence of satisfactory academic progress for Federal financial aid purposes. If mitigating circumstances were a factor in the student's unsatisfactory academic performance, a *separate* appeal process is required for Federal financial aid consideration.
3. Students who have earned 0-59 credits must achieve or maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 1.75. Students who have earned 60 or more credits must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0.
4. Students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of the courses that they attempt at the institution. Please note, courses dropped from a student's schedule after the published drop/add period are included in the completion percentage.
5. Students must complete requirements for a single degree within 150% of the published length of the program. The total number of credit hours attempted at Coastal Carolina University may not exceed the equivalent of twelve full-time (15 credit hour) semesters or 180 attempted credits. Please note that all transfer work accepted by the University is included in a student's total attempted credits.

Transfer students unconditionally admitted to the University will be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress for Federal financial aid at the time of enrollment. Students with excessive transfer credits are encouraged to see a Financial Aid Counselor in reference to their maximum timeframe of eligibility for Federal financial aid.

Students that have earned a previous degree and are now seeking a second degree, teacher certification, or completing prerequisites for one of the University's master's level programs are required to submit an appeal for Federal financial aid consideration. These students must submit documentation to explain why a second degree or career change is required, a signed academic plan detailing the coursework required to complete his/her goal, and an anticipated completion date determined by the faculty adviser. If the student's plan is deemed reasonable, a conditional approval for Federal financial aid will be issued one semester at a time until the student successfully completes his/her goal or fails to meet the stipulations of his/her conditional approval.

If a student's ability to meet the University's standards of satisfactory academic progress was affected by mitigating circumstances, he/she may appeal the denial of Federal financial assistance with the Office of Financial Aid. Examples of mitigating circumstances include but are not limited to: mental or physical illness, death of a loved one, divorce or separation, and financial duress.

Written documentation, in addition to that required by the established appeal process, is encouraged to validate your mitigating circumstance(s).

Effective August 2009, a student's unsatisfactory academic progress standing does not affect his/her ability to seek or receive private financial assistance to attend the institution. Students who do not have mitigating circumstances to warrant an appeal approval for Federal financial aid are encouraged to explore alternative or private funding to continue their enrollment. Please see a Financial Aid Counselor if you need assistance with obtaining private funding.