



# NASFAA Fall Training 2011–12

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

National Association of Student  
Financial Aid Administrators Presents ...

### Satisfactory Academic Progress

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### Introduction

- Basic components of a Satisfactory Academic Progress policy
- Regulatory information
- What differs from last year?

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### Basic Components: SAP Policy

- Qualitative Standard – Grade Point Average
- Quantitative Standard – Pace
- Maximum Time Frame – Cannot exceed 150% of the timeframe required to complete the program
- Evaluation schedule – Frequency of evaluating SAP; set by each Institution

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## Satisfactory Academic Progress

### What Differs from Last Year?

- New SAP regulations clearly outline required elements that must be present in an institutional SAP policy
- Institutions that monitor SAP each payment period have more flexibility

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### What Differs from Last Year?

- Appeal process
  - Financial aid warning, financial aid probation, pace
  - Requirements of an academic plan
- Inclusion of transfer hours
- Repeat coursework

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### Determining Satisfactory Academic Progress

The Satisfactory Academic Progress regulations became effective July 1, 2011.

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## Satisfactory Academic Progress

### Definitions

- Financial Aid Warning
- Financial Aid Probation
- Academic Plan
- Pace

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### Financial Aid Warning

- Can only be used if checking SAP each payment period
- Financial aid warning status is assigned automatically and student is still eligible to receive aid during the financial aid warning term. Students do not need to appeal to be given financial aid warning status.
- If SAP standards are not met during a financial aid warning term, an appeal can be filed

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### Financial Aid Probation

- If SAP is checked annually, student may appeal to have a financial aid probation term to meet minimum requirements
- If SAP is checked each term, student may appeal if after financial aid warning term SAP standards are not met
- Financial aid probation may be for one term or multiple terms based on an Academic Plan

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## Satisfactory Academic Progress

### Academic Plans

An Academic Plan for an approved appeal may state specific conditions that must be met such as:

- Register for fewer credit hours
- Certain term grade point average required
- May only take certain courses

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### Academic Plans

- May be as simple as a calculation or as detailed as a class by class schedule
- May require buy-in from other offices on campus such as Academic Advising/Counseling

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### Pace

- Pace is defined as the student's progression to ensure completion within the maximum time frame
- Pace must be measured at each evaluation
- A graduated pace standard is still permitted; i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> term – 50%; 2<sup>nd</sup> term – 60%; 3<sup>rd</sup> term – 70%

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## Satisfactory Academic Progress

### Calculating Pace/Quantitative Progress

$$\frac{\text{Cumulative number of credit hours completed}}{\text{Cumulative number of credit hours attempted}} = \text{Pace/Quantitative Progress}$$

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### Maximum Time Frame

- Undergraduate
  - Quantitative standard – maximum time frame cannot exceed 150% of published length of program
- Graduate
  - Maximum time frame not specified
  - Number of credit hours not specified
  - School determines both and must publish and follow that determination

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### Program Length

- Program less than 2 years
  - Must have standing consistent with graduation requirements
- Program longer than 2 years
  - Must have C average or equivalent at end of 2 years

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## Satisfactory Academic Progress

**Transfer Hours  
&  
Repeated Coursework**

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**Transfer Hours**

- Now required to count transfer hours accepted at your institution as both attempted and completed hours in SAP
- Transfer students may now have slight advantage over other students

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**Transfer Hours**

Transfer credits in calculation of pace means all completed work for all students considered

Schools still free to set own policies related to number of changes in major allowed

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## Satisfactory Academic Progress

### Repeated Coursework

- SAP rules do not require schools to allow course repetitions
- SAP rules do not require schools to limit the number of course repetitions
- SAP rules do address the treatment of repeats for measuring satisfactory progress

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### Repeated Coursework and SAP

If institution allows repeat coursework:

- Unlimited repeated courses could be funded if student has not passed the course
- Only one repeat of course could be funded with Title IV aid if student has previously passed the course

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### Be Aware!

- SAP rules must address the treatment of repeats to Title IV eligibility
- Repeat coursework is a separate topic, but directly related to SAP
- Information on repeat courses is found in 668.2(b)

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## Satisfactory Academic Progress

### Informing Students of SAP Changes

- Notifying students
- Student consumer information
- Updating materials/website
- Timing of communications

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### Updating Policies and Procedures

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### Questions to ask yourself

- Who in your office needs to be involved
- What other departments need to be involved
- How will the information be communicated to staff, students, and departments
- How often will you review your policy
- Where is your policy located

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## Satisfactory Academic Progress

### Conclusion

SAP – what is required?

- Quantitative (Pace)
- Maximum time frame
- Qualitative (GPA)
- Transfer credits included
- All must be communicated to students

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### Conclusion

What is optional? (if you exercise any of these options they must be clearly defined in your SAP policy)

- Allowing appeals to SAP
- Allowing repeated coursework
- Allowing a probationary period
- Creating an academic plan
- Granting a financial aid warning period

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### Guidance on SAP

- Preamble to the Program Integrity Final Rule:  
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-10-29/pdf/2010-26531.pdf>
- Electronic Announcement:  
[http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/060611SAPReviewfor\\_StudentinClockHrs.html](http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/060611SAPReviewfor_StudentinClockHrs.html)
- Program Integrity Q&A:  
<http://www2.ed.gov/print/policy/highered/reg/heard/ulemaking/2009/sap.html>

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## Satisfactory Academic Progress

### Statutory Authority

- All SAP regulations are now included in CFR 668.34
- 668.32(f) includes SAP with other eligibility requirements
- 668.16(e) refers to SAP as “reasonable policy”

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### Resources

- NASFAA Self-Evaluation Guide
- NASFAA Policies and Procedures Tools



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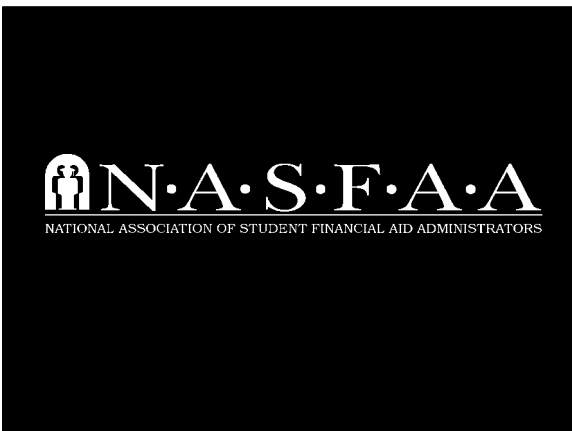
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