

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

BOARD POLICY NO. 4707

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Date Adopted:	01 April 1993
Date Revised:	28 September 2011; 27 November 2019; 09-11 June 2026
Date Reviewed:	8 September 2011; 27 November 2019; 09-11 June 2026
References:	34 CFR §668.16 and §668.34, U.S. Department of Education – Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended; BP No. 4708-Appeal of Financial Aid Suspension; COM-FSM Student Financial Aid Handbook

In compliance with federal regulations governing Title IV financial aid, the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM or “the College”) monitors Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to ensure students are progressing toward the completion of their academic programs within a reasonable timeframe.

SAP is evaluated at the end of every semester. Students must meet both qualitative and quantitative standards to remain eligible for financial aid.

A. SAP Standards

SAP is measured using two components:

1. Qualitative Standard (GPA¹ Requirement)

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher.

2. Quantitative Standards (Pace and Maximum Timeframe)

a. Pace of Progression (Completion Rate)

Students must successfully complete at least 67% of all cumulative credits attempted, calculated as: $\text{Credits Earned} \div \text{Credits Attempted} = \text{Completion Rate}$

b. Maximum Timeframe

Students must complete their program within 150% of the published program length. For example: Associate Degree (60 credits) → Maximum attempted credits allowed = 90 credits.

B. Financial Aid Eligibility Status

1. Financial Aid Good Standing

A student is in good standing and eligible for financial aid when all SAP standards are met:

- Minimum GPA of 2.0
- Minimum 67% completion rate
- Completion within maximum timeframe (150%)

¹Grade Point Average

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2. Financial Aid Warning

Students who fail to meet SAP standards for the first time are placed on Financial Aid Warning.

- a. Students remain eligible for financial aid for one semester only
- b. No appeal is required
- c. SAP will be re-evaluated at the end of the warning semester

3. Financial Aid Suspension (Ineligibility)

Students who fail to meet SAP standards after the warning period are placed on Financial Aid Suspension and lose eligibility for financial aid.

Students may regain eligibility only through an approved appeal.

C. Appeal Process

Students who fail to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards and are placed on Financial Aid Suspension may appeal their ineligibility status in accordance with BP No. 4708 (Appeal of Financial Aid Suspension).

Appeals must be based on documented extenuating circumstances that affected academic performance, including but not limited to illness, injury, family emergency, or other significant personal situations.

All appeals must include appropriate supporting documentation as required under BP No. 4708.

D. Appeal Review and Outcomes

All SAP-related appeals are reviewed by the Financial Aid Committee in accordance with BP No. 4708. Submission of an appeal does not guarantee approval.

Based on the committee's decision, one of the following outcomes will apply:

1. Financial Aid Probation

Approved when the committee determines that the student is able to meet SAP standards within one payment period.

- a. Student remains eligible for financial aid for one semester
- b. SAP must be met at the end of the semester

2. Academic Plan

Approved when the committee determines the student cannot meet SAP standards within one semester but can achieve progress under a structured plan.

- a. Student remains eligible under an approved academic plan
- b. Continued eligibility depends on compliance with the plan and federal SAP requirements

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3. Appeal Denial

Appeal is denied when:

- a. Circumstances are not sufficiently documented or do not meet criteria under BP No. 4708, or
- b. The committee determines reinstatement is not warranted

Student remains ineligible for financial aid.

All appeal procedures, timelines, documentation requirements, and final decision processes are governed by BP No. 4708.

All appeal decisions are final as stated in BP No. 4708.

E. Treatment of Course Grades

The following grades are not considered successfully completed:

1. F (Failure)
2. I (Incomplete)
3. W (Withdrawal)

These grades are counted as credits attempted but not earned and will negatively affect SAP calculations.

F. Repeated Courses

Repeated courses are included in both credits attempted and credits earned calculations for SAP purposes.

A student may repeat a course and have it counted toward financial aid eligibility, subject to federal Title IV repeat course rules.

See Administrative Procedure 4707.