2015 – 2016 SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) POLICY

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS
Federal regulations require all schools participating in Title IV federal financial aid programs to have a Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy that meets the minimum federal requirements. This policy defines Satisfactory Academic Progress, the process by which financial aid is revoked for failure to make Satisfactory Academic Progress, and the process by which students may appeal Satisfactory Academic Progress decisions. This policy applies to all federal, state, and institutional aid, and applies to all students, regardless of status as a financial aid recipient.

The purpose of these standards is to ensure financial aid recipients are progressing toward their degree in an adequate and timely manner. These standards govern financial aid and do not have any bearing on academic standing, as the Academic Progress Status is a separate policy. A student’s Satisfactory Academic Progress status does not affect the ability to enroll in classes, but it can affect their ability to receive aid to cover expenses. All financial aid recipients will be evaluated for Satisfactory Academic Progress at the conclusion of each term, including summer.

Satisfactory Academic Progress is measured by three standards:

• Minimum GPA (Qualitative Standard):
  All undergraduate students must maintain a 2.0 term and cumulative GPA, and graduate students must maintain a 3.0 term and cumulative GPA. Pharmacy students must meet academic requirements specified to advance within the professional program.

• Pace/Completion Rate (Quantitative Standard):
  All students must successfully complete a minimum of 67% of all hours attempted. Completion rate is determined by dividing the total number of hours earned by the total number of credit hours attempted. Example: 9 earned hours ÷ 13 attempted hours = 69% completion rate (meets minimum standard of 67%)

• Maximum Time Frame (Quantitative Standard):
  Students are eligible for financial aid for a maximum of 150% of the required length of a program. The maximum time is determined based on the number of credits required for the student’s degree and major. The 150% threshold for ULM degrees are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Level</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s Degree</td>
<td>90 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTA Degree</td>
<td>111 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>180 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Degree</td>
<td>varies (multiply the number of hours for your degree by 150%)</td>
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</tbody>
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The following information is taken into consideration when determining a student’s SAP status:

  o A student’s entire academic record at all schools attended, regardless of whether financial aid was utilized
  o Grades of A, B, C, or D are counted as both attempted and earned hours.
  o Remedial courses and grades of F, W, I, NC, and IP are counted as attempted hours, but not earned hours.

Note: Even if a student is granted “Academic Renewal” by ULM, the SAP Appeals Committee must still consider these hours in the student’s completion rate and in the total hours attempted.
FINANCIAL AID WARNING AND RESOLUTION
Students who fail to meet one of the three standards above will be placed on Financial Aid Warning status. Students who are on Warning may still receive financial aid for one term. To resolve Warning status and be moved back to Good Standing, students must complete the Warning term by meeting all three standards successfully.

FINANCIAL AID SUSPENSION
Students who are on Warning status and do not meet one or more of the three standards successfully will be placed on Suspension status. Suspension status halts all federal, state, and institutional aid, and most outside scholarships and private loans.

There are special circumstances when a student may be placed on Suspension status:
- **Undergraduates with less than 2.0 GPA who have reached Junior status**
  Undergraduate students who have reached junior status (60 credits) with a cumulative GPA below 2.0 cannot appeal their SAP Suspension status. Students can only regain eligibility once they earn a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0. This is a federal regulation and cannot be appealed to the SAP Appeals Committee or the ULM Administration.
- **Transfer students**
  All transfer students must provide official transcripts for all prior institutions, and must successfully meet all SAP standards upon entering ULM. Any transfer student not meeting a standard will be placed on Suspension status and must appeal to receive financial aid.

RE-ESTABLISHING FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY
Students placed on Suspension status and denied financial aid have two options for re-establishing financial aid eligibility:
- **Appeal the Suspension status**
  Students placed on Suspension status and denied financial aid have the right to appeal their status if there were extenuating circumstances. Once a student has been placed on Suspension status, the SAP Appeal form will be listed as an unsatisfied student requirement on Banner. The student must submit the appeal and all necessary documentation to be reviewed by the SAP Appeals Committee. If the student successfully appeals the Suspension status, the student will be placed on Probation status. If the student is denied, the student has the right to continue their enrollment at ULM but must find other means to pay their Fee Bill.
- **Meet all SAP standards while paying for a term out-of-pocket**
  If the student unsuccessfully appeals the Suspension status or chooses not to appeal, the student has the right to pay for a term out-of-pocket to continue enrollment at ULM. If the student successfully meets all SAP standards, the student has the right to re-appeal. If the student re-appeals successfully, the student will be placed on Probation status.

FINANCIAL AID PROBATION STATUS AND RESOLUTION
Students who have successfully appealed Suspension status and have been granted Probation status must complete 100% of their courses of the Probation term(s) with a 2.3 GPA (graduate students must complete the term(s) with a 3.3 GPA), and successfully follow the academic plan outlined in their appeal. Failure to complete the criteria outlined on the Appeal Agreement will result in being downgraded to Suspension status.

SUBSEQUENT APPEALS
Students have the right to appeal multiple suspensions, however they must have a DIFFERENT reason for not being successful. Federal regulations do not allow multiple suspension appeals due to the same reason.

All appeal decisions are final.