

Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress  
**Undergraduate Financial Aid Requirements**

**Statement of Policy**

Per federal regulation, the Office of Financial Aid is responsible for establishing and monitoring a standard of “satisfactory academic progress” for continuation of financial aid eligibility. This policy states:

- you are expected to make satisfactory academic progress toward earning a degree.
- your total academic history at UNC is included, regardless of whether you have previously received financial assistance.
- to remain eligible, you must meet both qualitative (grade point average) and quantitative (total attempted hours) standards of this policy.
- satisfactory progress will be reviewed at the end of every semester, upon academic suspension, and again at the end of summer for students who enroll in summer and receive aid.

**Financial Aid programs subject to this policy are:**

Federal Pell Grant, Colorado Student Grant, Colorado Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program, Special Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal and State Work Study, Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, Federal PLUS Loan, Federal TEACH Grant, Federal SMART and Federal Academic Competitiveness Grants, various alternative loans, and the Alaska Student Loan Program. Institutional funds including the Need Based Grant are also subject to this policy. Standards for scholarships will be provided at the time of the scholarship award.

**Requirements**

To maintain satisfactory academic progress, you must:

- maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0
- complete at least 80% of the credits you attempt
- [Dependent Tuition Grant](#)

**If you do not complete half-time credits OR your cum gpa falls below 1.0, you will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension at the end of that semester.**

**The following courses cannot be used to meet credit requirements:**

- Independent study courses (need prior approval)
- Any remedial courses (course number less than 100)

- Non-credit courses or workshops, including audited courses
- Courses taken at Aims Community College through the UNC/Aims Cooperative Registration Agreement
- Courses taken at another institution during the term(s) funded through UNC

**All undergraduate students and those students enrolled in a teacher licensure program must meet the following to avoid financial aid suspension:**

UNC Cum Grade Point Average	Completion Rate	Maximum Hours
<p><b>2.0 cum gpa</b> at the end of the spring semester</p> <p><b>1.0 cum gpa</b> at the end of any semester</p> <p>Reminder: GPAs do not transfer from one institution to another.</p>	<p>Must satisfactorily complete with a grade of D or better, including S, at least 80% of the hours you attempt during the academic year. If you totally withdraw you will be on suspension. Attempted hours include those for which you receive a U, F, I, W, or UW.</p> <p>Must complete at least half-time hours.</p>	<p>May attempt up to 145 credit hours toward the degree, including transfer hours accepted by the University (most degrees only require 120 hours). Teacher licensure students may attempt up to 90 credit hours.</p>

**Example 1:**

You take 12 hours fall and only complete 9 satisfactorily, (get an incomplete in 3 hours) then take 17 in spring and complete 13, you have attempted 29 hours (12 + 17) and completed 22 hours (9 + 13).

**$22 \div 29 = 76\% \rightarrow$  You are in violation of the 80% of the attempted hours policy.**

**Example 2:**

You take 15 hours fall and complete all 15 satisfactorily, then 12 hours spring and complete 9 hours satisfactorily, you have attempted 27 hours (15 + 12), and completed 24 hours (15 + 9).

**$24 \div 27 = 89\% \rightarrow$  You have completed over 80% of your attempted hours and are in good standing for hours completion.**

*Reminder: Summer hours are calculated separately from fall and spring.*

## Financial Aid Warnings

A warning will be sent at the end of fall semester if you did not complete 80% of hours attempted and/or your cumulative gpa is below 2.0. You have the spring term to meet the standards or you will be placed on financial aid suspension.

## Financial Aid and Grade Forgiveness Policy

Please be aware the Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy is separate from the Grade Forgiveness Policy. Changes in your cumulative GPA and/or deficient hours due to grade forgiveness will not be taken into account in your financial aid suspension appeal until you have completed the class.

## Financial Aid Suspension

If placed on Financial Aid Suspension you are no longer eligible to receive financial assistance under any State or Federal financial aid programs administered by or through the University of Northern Colorado. Financial Aid Suspension does not prohibit your enrollment at UNC, but you will be responsible for all charges incurred. Eligibility may be regained by enrolling and attending without financial aid and completing sufficient courses to meet the 80% satisfactory completion rate and/or raising your cumulative GPA to a 2.0 minimum.

Financial Aid Suspension remains in effect unless it is removed by the Appeals Committee (see Financial Aid Appeals). If you are academically suspended, and then you are readmitted to the University, you must still appeal your Financial Aid Suspension. If financial assistance is received and you were not eligible, repayment of that aid is required immediately.

## Last Date of Attendance

At the end of each semester the Office of Financial Aid generates a report of students who received financial aid but whose grades show all Fs and/or UWs for a semester. Often students who receive all Fs and/or UW grades for a semester have stopped attending class but did not withdraw from UNC. If you decide to leave school before the end of any term, you are responsible for following proper withdrawal procedures with the Registrar's Office.

If there is no notification of your withdrawal to the Registrar's Office and you receive all Fs and/or UW grades for a semester, federal regulations require a return of funds be calculated based on 50% attendance. The Office of Financial Aid will assume you did not attend the entire semester and will apply the withdrawal policy based on only 50% attendance. If you did indeed attend more than 50% of the semester and the F grades you received were "earned", you are responsible for providing any supporting documentation that shows your course attendance or participation.

You will receive a bill from the UNC Accounts Receivable Office for the amount of aid we return to the Federal Programs. You will also be placed on Financial Aid Suspension which will override any probation letter you may receive. The entire Financial Aid Return of Title IV Funds policy is available on our website at [www.unco.edu/ofa](http://www.unco.edu/ofa).

## Repayment of Aid

It is your responsibility to be aware of the academic progress standards that must be maintained for continued eligibility for financial assistance. Due to time restrictions, it is not always possible to notify you that you have not met the standards established. If financial assistance was disbursed prior to notification of financial aid suspension, it is your responsibility to repay any funds that were disbursed. If the funds have to be returned to the source due to withdrawal, you are responsible for the repayment of these funds.

## Financial Aid Appeals

You should make up your deficiency by attending and paying for school. However, in cases of extenuating circumstances, you have a right to appeal your suspension of eligibility for financial assistance. You are encouraged to appeal as soon as you are notified that you did not meet the Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress. Appeals, including all supporting documentation, must be submitted on a timely basis.

- *How to File an Appeal*  
To file an appeal, please visit with a counselor to obtain the appeal form and review your situation. The completed appeal form with all supporting documentation must be returned to:

**University of Northern Colorado  
Office of Financial Aid  
Carter Hall 1005, Campus Box 33  
Greeley, CO 80639**

- *Appeal Review Committee*  
The appeal committee reviews and makes recommendations to the Director of Financial Aid or her/his designee regarding disposition of appeals. You will be notified via email of the results, and their decision is final.
- *Reinstatement of Aid*  
If your appeal is approved, your aid package will be based upon availability of funding. Your letter from the appeal committee will indicate the term for which you have regained eligibility.

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Office of Financial Aid, Carter Hall, Room 1005, (970) 351-2502.

