

2023 2024 CACC Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) & Appeals

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is measured at the end of each semester of enrollment at Central Alabama Community College (CACC). Students are required under federal regulations to maintain certain standards of progress based on the number of hours attempted in college. It is the student's responsibility to read and become familiar with all policies associated with financial aid funding.

Qualitative Standard – Grade Point Average (GPA)

GPA requirements for degree seeking students:

- After attempting 1-21 hours, students must maintain a 1.5 GPA.
- After attempting 22-32 hours, students must maintain a 1.75 GPA.
- After attempting 33 or more hours, students must maintain a 2.0 GPA.

Quantitative Standard – Completion Rate/Pace of Progression (PACE)

Completion Rate/Pace of Progression (PACE)* requirements for degree seeking students:

- After attempting 1-21 hours, students must maintain a 58% Completion Rate.
- After attempting 22-32 hours, students must maintain a 62% Completion Rate.
- After attempting 33 or more hours, students must maintain a 67% Completion Rate.

*Standard rounding rules apply.

Quantitative Standard – Maximum Timeframe

The Maximum Timeframe for the completion of an undergraduate degree program is defined as no more than 150% of the normal timeframe required to complete the degree program. For example, if the Associate in Science degree requires 64 credit hours to graduate, the Maximum Timeframe of completion for this degree would be 96 credit hours (64 x 150%). Students failing to complete their degree program within this timeframe will lose financial aid eligibility.

All courses attempted by the student are included in the Maximum Timeframe calculation including transfer hours accepted by the College. The Maximum Timeframe will not reset with a

Warning Semester

If a student fails to meet the Qualitative Standard – Grade Point Average (GPA) and/or the Quantitative Standard – Completion Rate/Pace of Progression (PACE) for Satisfactory Academic Progress, the student will be placed on “warning” for one semester. During this warning semester, the student will be eligible for financial aid; however, the student must be meeting all GPA, Completion Rate/Pace of Progression, and Maximum Timeframe requirements at the end of the warning semester to continue to receive financial aid. There is no warning semester for Maximum Timeframe.

Additional Information Regarding SAP Calculation

The following information explains how repeated courses, incompletes, withdrawals, academic bankruptcies, course forgiveness, developmental courses, transfer credits, and grade changes are treated in a student's SAP calculation.

- Repeated courses are factored into the GPA, Completion Rate/PACE and Maximum Timeframe calculations. The first repeat course will not be calculated into the GPA requirement; however, the course will be calculated as an attempted and unearned course for Completion Rate/PACE and Maximum Timeframe calculations. Students can only repeat a successfully passed course using federal aid one additional time. Repeats may affect a student's Completion Rate/PACE and Maximum Timeframe.
- Incomplete grades

Financial Aid Appeal

In some cases, a student's failure to be in compliance with one or more areas of SAP may be due to an extenuating/mitigating circumstance. An extenuating/mitigating circumstance is defined as a situation beyond the student's control, an undue hardship as a result of special circumstances, or other circumstances. Some examples of extenuating/mitigating circumstances may include: serious illness or injury to student that required extended recovery time; death or serious illness of an immediate family member; significant trauma in student's life that impaired the student's emotional and/or physical health; or other documented circumstances. A student who experiences an extenuating/mitigating circumstance may submit a financial aid appeal. If a student files an appeal due to the Maximum Timeframe, he/she should be meeting the other two components (GPA and Completion Rate/PACE). An appeal cannot be approved for a prior term. Financial aid appeals should be received in the Office of Financial Aid by close of business two days prior to the first day of classes. Submitting a financial aid appeal is NOT an automatic approval. The decision of the Admission, Academic, and Financial Aid serious