

Satisfactory Academic Progress for Eligibility for Financial Aid

In order to maintain financial aid eligibility, a student must meet specific requirements of satisfactory academic progress. The U.S. Department of Education mandates institutions to establish standards of satisfactory progress for all students receiving financial aid. Bethany Global University has established the following requirements which are applicable to all federal or institutional financial awards granted to students.

Requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress

Requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress for a full-time student has three components, the Qualitative Requirements, the Quantitative Requirements, and the Maximum Timeframe for completion.

1. Qualitative Requirement:

The student must maintain the following cumulative grade point averages (CGPA) to remain eligible for financial aid.

• Undergraduate programs	CGPA
○ First Term up to 17 credits	1.50
○ Second Term up to 35 credits	1.80
○ Subsequent terms	2.00
• Graduate Programs	
○ Up to 20 credits	2.00
○ 20-36 credits	2.50

2. Quantitative Requirement (Pace of Progression)

Students must complete a minimum of 67% of the credit hours attempted in order to complete their program within the published maximum allowable time frame for completion of the educational objective.

- Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Intercultural Studies must successfully complete 124 credit hours. In order to meet this requirement they may attempt up to a maximum of 186 credit hours.
- Students pursuing the Associate of Arts Degree in Intercultural Ministry must successfully complete 60 credit hours. In order to meet this requirement they may attempt up to a maximum of 90 credit hours.
- Students pursuing the Certificate in Bible and Missions must successfully complete 30 credit hours. In order to meet this requirement they may attempt up to a maximum of 45 credit hours.
- Students pursuing the Certificate in Pre-field Preparation must successfully complete 27 credit hours. In order to meet this requirement they may attempt up to a maximum of 40.5 credit hours.
- Graduate students must successfully complete a minimum of 67% of the credit hours attempted each academic year.

3. Maximum Time Frame for Completion of Education Objective

Students must complete their educational objective within the timeframe of 150% of the published credit hours prescribed for that program. For example, a student pursuing the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Intercultural Studies program must successfully complete 124 credit hours. In order to meet this requirement they may attempt up to a maximum of 186 credit hours.

Related Policies

The following policies and definitions are provided for clarity regarding satisfactory academic progress.

1. Repeated Courses

Students may repeat previously passed courses only once. Students may repeat a failed course numerous times until it is passed. Repeated courses will count toward determination of enrollment status and will be eligible for financial aid only once. Repeated courses are computed in completion rate.

2. Withdrawn Courses

Withdrawn courses neither earn credit nor influence grade point average. Withdrawn courses may affect completion rate if course is dropped after the add/drop period set by the Registrar. Students may retake courses from which they have withdrawn which will count toward determination of enrollment status in that term and will be eligible for financial aid.

3. Incomplete Courses

Incomplete courses do not earn credit nor influence grade point average in the semester they are listed as incomplete. Incomplete courses either turn into an "F" grade if not completed or into a different letter grade when completed.

4. Audit Courses

Audit courses neither earn credit nor influence grade point average. They are not eligible for financial aid.

5. Transfer Students

The credits that are transferred are not calculated into the overall credits earned total nor factored into the cumulative GPA until students have successfully completed 30 credits with BGU.

6. Making up Credits

Students may make up credit deficiency and cumulative GPA by attending classes during the summer or taking independent courses. Credits earned through this method as well as cumulative GPA will be evaluated at the end of the semester to determine academic progress for the past academic year.

Evaluation of Academic Progress

Evaluation of satisfactory academic progress will be done at the end of each term. The total (cumulative) academic record is considered when academic progress is considered when academic progress is evaluated (not just terms when financial aid was received). If a student fails to make satisfactory academic progress the following will apply:

1. **Financial Aid Warning.** If a student fails to meet requirements they will be given a Financial Aid Warning. A student may be put on financial aid warning up to two

times during their enrollment, but not in consecutive terms. Students will be notified of the warning by email at the end of each term as soon as final grades are posted. While under the warning, the student will continue to be eligible to receive financial aid and no appeal is necessary. In order to have the FA warning removed, the student must meet satisfactory academic progress requirements by the end of the subsequent term. Financial aid warning may be concurrent with a separate academic warning or possibly academic probation. Students on financial aid warning are required to work with the Academic Advisor to create an academic success plan.

2. **Financial Aid Suspension.** If a student does not meet the requirements in the subsequent term, they will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension. During Financial Aid Suspension, the student will not be eligible for federal or institutional financial aid and any funds already awarded will be cancelled. Students on financial aid suspension will also concurrently be on academic probation and are required to work with the Academic Advisor to create an academic success plan. In order to be reinstated from financial aid suspension, the student must successfully meet all requirements of successful academic progress stated above.

A student may appeal a Financial Aid Suspension one time per academic year.

A student who successfully appeals a “Financial Aid Suspension” is placed on Financial Aid Probation for one semester. If the student meets the requirements outlined in his/her academic plan at the end of that semester, he/she is considered to be making satisfactory academic progress and is no longer on Financial Aid Probation.

If the student fails to meet the requirements outlined in his/her academic plan (or is not otherwise making satisfactory academic progress) at the end of that semester, the student has lost financial aid eligibility.

3. **Reestablishing Financial Aid Eligibility.** Students who are not making satisfactory academic progress can restore their eligibility for FSA funds by meeting the terms of a prescribed academic plan during an academic period. Such a plan may include meeting a specific semester GPA and/or completion of a special number of credit hours. Additional criteria set forth in an academic plan may include attendance requirements, ethical standards, related to issues such as cheating and plagiarism etc.

Appeal Process

Students may appeal financial aid suspension status in writing on the appeal form available from the financial aid office. Such appeals are the responsibility of the student and must be made within 30 days after the date of the letter of notification and must include appropriate documentation. The appeal must be in written form, addressed to the Financial Aid Advisor for consideration by the Financial Aid Committee. Mitigating circumstances which would be considered upon appeal as adequate reasons for reinstatement could include (but not limited to):

Circumstance	Suggested documentation
Student illness, accident or hospitalization of the student or immediate relative	Physician's statement, police report, hospital billing statement, or other documentation from a third party professional
death or illness of parent or close relative.	Copy of the obituary or death certificate
Divorce or divorce of parent	Attorney's letter or copy of decree
Personal issues	Statement from doctor, counselor or university official

The appeal must include why the student failed to make satisfactory academic progress, what has changed that will allow the student to make satisfactory academic progress for the next semester.

If the appeal is granted the student will be eligible for financial aid during the term but will remain on Academic Probation and be required to work with the Academic Advisor to create a plan for academic success. The student must meet satisfactory academic progress by the end of the probationary term.