

VCSU - SATISFACTORY PROGRESS POLICY

Introduction

Federal regulations require that all institutions participating in Title IV Student Financial Aid Programs establish, publish, and apply standards of satisfactory progress for each student enrolled.

To ensure compliance with these regulations, the following policy governing standards of satisfactory progress for all students attending Valley City State University who apply for financial aid will be in effect. Students who fail to meet these standards of satisfactory progress will be ineligible to receive financial aid until eligibility has been reestablished.

Satisfactory Progress Policy

To be eligible to receive campus-based aid and Pell Grant, the student must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment and determined to be a “regular student” enrolled in an “eligible program” for the purpose of obtaining a degree. The student must be in good academic standing and must be making satisfactory progress toward the completion of a degree.

The following measures have been established as grade point average standard indicating satisfactory progress toward a degree.

Following Semester	Term/Cum GPA Required
First Semester	1.60
Second Semester	1.80
Third Semester	2.00

In order for a student in teacher education to receive financial aid, a cumulative GPA of 2.5 must be maintained.

The standards apply to all regularly enrolled students. The student not making satisfactory progress, as indicated by the standard, will be placed on academic/financial probation the next semester.

To maintain satisfactory progress a student (i.e. full-time, $\frac{3}{4}$ time, $\frac{1}{2}$ time, and less than $\frac{1}{2}$ time) is required to complete a minimum of 66% of the credit hours attempted each academic term.

A student on probation will be continued on probation the next concurrent semester “**if**” the student completes all credits attempted the previous semester with a GPA of 3.00 or above.

A student who continues to meet the minimum satisfactory progress standards according to this policy is eligible to receive financial aid at Valley City State University up to a **maximum of 180 credit hours attempted for a baccalaureate program.**

All credits transferred to the University and/or credits earned at VCSU will apply towards the maximum number of credits allowed.

Additional Standards Used to Evaluate Satisfactory Progress

1. All students, including transfer students, enrolling at Valley City State University for the first time will be assumed to be making satisfactory progress
2. Cumulative credit hours attempted for each academic year will be a total of the greatest number of hours a student is registered for on any of these given dates: First day of classes, last day to add, last day to drop, last day of classes for each academic semester.
3. Students must be making satisfactory progress according to the requirements of this policy PRIOR to receiving financial aid.
4. Credit hours completed with a grade of “D” or better, or “S” is attempted on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis, will be used to calculate hours earned as well as all GPA Calculations.
5. Grades of Failed (F), Unsatisfactory (U), Incomplete (I), Withdrawn (W), and Not Reported (NR), counts as credits attempted but not completed and will be applied towards the maximum number of credits attempted.

6. Courses that are repeated will count in the calculation of hours attempted and completed hours earned if the student receives a passing grade.
7. Courses taken for audit only will not be considered for aid.
8. Any student who totally withdraws from the University during a semester will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension. Students in this category may appeal to reestablish financial aid eligibility.

Evaluation

The GPA standard is reviewed by the Vice President for Academic Affairs to determine each student's eligibility status at the completion of each semester. The Financial Aid Office will perform a quantitative review of academic records. Those students currently receiving financial aid and who fail to meet the GPA standard or the quantitative standard of satisfactory progress will receive notification regarding financial aid probation or financial aid suspension by letter. However, since all students are required to meet these standards of satisfactory progress, the academic transcripts of those students who have previously received financial aid will be reviewed at the time they make application for financial aid and they will be notified regarding their eligibility status at that time.

Probation/Termination

A student who is on academic/financial probation due to GPA must bring his/her cumulative grade point up to the required level during the next semester or he/she may be suspended. A student who is on financial aid probation due to quantitative hours must bring his/her cumulative quantitative requirement up to 66% during the next semester or he/she will be suspended from financial aid.

Any student failing to meet the standard of this policy will be ineligible to receive financial aid.

Reestablishing Eligibility

Any student dropped from consideration for financial aid per the provisions of this policy may, after successfully completing at least one semester without financial aid at the University, apply and be considered. Implicit in this provision is the fact that the student must be in good standing and making satisfactory progress before financial aid eligibility can be reestablished (i.e. successful completion of 66% of hours attempted and meeting the minimum GPA standards). Students who are determined ineligible to receive financial aid are encouraged to remain in school in order to reestablish their eligibility.

Credit hours earned during the Summer Session at Valley City State University may be used to reestablish eligibility. If, after adding credit hours attempted and earned during the Summer Session to those attempted and earned during the academic year, a student now meets the satisfactory progress standards, and his/her eligibility may be reestablished.

Students may reestablish eligibility by completing course work and removing an Incomplete from his/her transcript if he/she meets the Satisfactory Progress requirements.

Appeal

A student who has been placed on financial aid suspension may appeal by submitting an appeal in writing to the Financial Aid Director. Appeals must be submitted early leaving time for the committee to meet and make a decision before the last day to add in a semester (approximately three days before last day to add). Appeals must be delivered to the Financial Aid Office by the deadline. The Financial Aid Committee will review the appeal, and the student will be notified regarding the results. The Financial Aid Committee shall consist of the Director of Financial Aid, the Foundation Director, the Director of Enrollment Management, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Vice President of Business Affairs, two Faculty Association members and one Student Representative. A further appeal of the decision by the committee may be made in writing to the University Hearings and Appeals Board.