

# Highland Community College

## Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for Financial Aid Eligibility

Federal regulations require that students receiving Federal Financial Aid, including Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work Study, VA Benefits and Federal Direct Student Loans, maintain satisfactory academic progress towards a degree or certificate in order to be eligible to receive Federal aid.

Progress will be measured at the end of each semester according to three factors:

- 1) a semester and cumulative grade point average (GPA);
- 2) completion of credit hours; and
- 3) the time frame allowed for completing a certificate or degree.

**1. GPA** - A minimum 2.0 GPA measured **by semester and cumulative credit hours**. All TRANSFERRED hours except for developmental and audit hours are counted in a student's GPA. Developmental hours are included as hours paid and passed, but are not calculated in the GPA. Audit hours are not considered for financial aid.

**2. Minimum Completion Rate** - Students must complete 66.67% or 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of all hours attempted. This will be measured **by semester and cumulative credit hours**. Completion rate is calculated as follows: Hours Completed / (divided by) Hours Attempted x (multiplied by) 100 = Completion Percentage.

**3. Maximum Time Frame 150%** - Two-year degree seeking students may not receive financial aid for more than 150% of the required hours to complete a degree. At HCC, students may not receive Federal aid for more than 95 hours. Calculation: HCC degrees require students to complete 63 credit hours.  $150\% \times 63 = 94.5$  (rounded to 95).

### Warning Status

Students who have been in good standing, but fail to meet the minimum requirements stated above will be placed on warning for the following semester of attendance, but will continue to be eligible for Federal Financial Aid. At the end of the warning semester, students must have a minimum semester and cumulative 2.0 GPA and must have a minimum 66.67% cumulative completion rate. There is no warning status for students who have exceeded the Maximum Time Frame of 150%.

### Suspension Status

Suspension means that a student's eligibility for Federal grants, direct loans, VA Benefits, and federal work-study has been suspended due to not making Satisfactory Academic Progress. Suspension from Federal Student Aid will occur if a student on Warning does not meet the requirements for Good Standing. Suspension will also occur if a student has exceeded the Maximum Time Frame stated above. Students will be able to attend HCC if reinstated.

Returning Students: A student's SAP status and prior history with Highland Community College will remain on a student's account and be counted towards the student's Satisfactory Academic Progress calculations.