



**Title: #VI-10A. Standards of Satisfactory Progress for Financial Aid Recipients**

**Date: May 10, 2004** (Replaces version dated March 25, 1992)

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## **1. Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Students who receive financial aid from WVUP must remain in good academic standing and must make satisfactory progress towards the completion of their academic goals. This policy applies to all students who receive assistance from any federal financial aid program or other program administered by the college, which requires a determination of satisfactory academic progress as a criterion for eligibility.

The federal government defines satisfactory academic progress as maintaining a minimum quantitative (completion rate) and qualitative (grade point average) standard. This standard for WVUP students is defined as follows:

## **2. Definition**

All students receiving financial aid must maintain a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Satisfactory academic progress requires all students receiving financial aid to maintain a 75% completion rate. This means a student must complete 75% of all credits attempted. Grades that will be counted toward hours attempted include F, W, FIW, I, and R.

## **3. Programs**

Students are also limited to the number of credit hours for which they can receive financial aid. The standards are listed below:

### **Two Year Degrees (AAS, AA, or AS)**

Students are expected to complete their program within 83 credit hours.

### **Four-Year Degrees (bachelor's level)**

Students are expected to complete their program within 160 credit hours.

## **4. Review of Progress**

Students may be subject to review under this policy at the end of each semester.

## **5. Appeals**

Students who fail to meet the standards of this policy and are terminated from financial aid may appeal the termination to the Financial Aid Director who will submit the appeal to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. All appeals must be in writing and must be initiated before the deadline stipulated in the notification of ineligibility.

The Financial Aid Committee will convene promptly (within two weeks) to hear all appeals. The Committee will normally consider **factors beyond the reasonable control** of the student to be grounds for an appeal. The student must be prepared to offer any proof to substantiate the appeal. Documentation should be submitted with the letter of appeal. When granting a student's appeal, the Financial Aid Committee may impose certain requirements or restrictions as conditions to granting the appeal.

After appeals or exceptions are granted, failure to consistently make satisfactory progress towards meeting the standards allowed would cause the student to be declared ineligible for future financial aid.

Students whose appeal has been denied by the Financial Aid Committee may make a final appeal to the Dean of Students.

## **6. Changes in Policy**

The Standards of Satisfactory Progress for financial aid recipients that are in effect at the beginning of the fall semester for each academic year will remain in effect for the remainder of that academic year without change, except those changes mandated by statute, regulation, or policy of authorities beyond the control of the Financial Aid Office.