

Satisfactory Academic Progress

The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, requires students to maintain satisfactory academic progress toward their degree in order to receive financial aid. These standards apply to students who receive aid from federal, state, private, or institutional resources. These resources include grants, scholarships, work, and loan programs.

Academic standards contain both a quantitative (cumulative credit hours earned divided by cumulative credit hours attempted) component and a qualitative (cumulative GPA) component. These are the minimum standards required in order to maintain financial aid eligibility.

The academic progress of financial aid recipients will be monitored at the end of each semester (December, May/June, and August). Students should contact the Office of Student Financial Planning with questions.

- All students must earn 66.67% of their attempted credit hours in order to continue to receive financial aid. Financial aid eligibility will end when the student has attempted more than 150% of the credit hours required for a specific program or degree.
- Undergraduate students are expected to achieve a cumulative GPA of at least a:
 - 1.6 after their 1st semester
 - 1.8 after their 2nd semester
 - 2.0 after their 3rd and all remaining semesters
- All transfer students and students who have achieved a baccalaureate degree are expected to achieve at least a 2.0 GPA each semester.
- Graduate students are expected to achieve at least a 3.0 gpa each semester.
- After the first semester of not completing the required number of credits and/ or gpa, the student will be placed on financial aid warning. During this time, a student will be given one more semester of aid. After the end of the second term, attempted and completed credits and gpa will again be reviewed. If at this time the student has not completed the required credits and gpa, the student will be placed on financial aid suspension, which is a loss of all aid. If the student has been placed on financial aid suspension, he/she has the right to appeal the suspension to the Academic Standards Committee, attention the Director of Financial Planning. The student should write a letter explaining why he/she did not complete the required expectations, along with an academic plan to rectify the situation and achieve his/her degree in a timely manner. If the student's appeal is granted, the student will be asked to sign an agreement of expectation for the following term, which is a term of financial probation. The student's situation will again be reviewed after the end of the next term to see if the expectations were met. If those expectations have not been met, the student will again be placed on financial aid suspension.
- **Transfer Credits:** Upon admission, transfer students are assumed to be maintaining satisfactory academic progress. After admission to Morningside, courses successfully completed in subsequent terms at another institution that fulfill degree requirements at Morningside may be used to achieve satisfactory academic progress standards. Students must provide documentation to the Office of Student Financial Planning regarding such credit.

- **Non-Credit Course Work:** Incompletes, repeats in which a passing grade was previously earned, non-credit course work, audits, and withdrawals, will not be counted in the minimum credit requirement.
- **Changes in Academic Load:** During the first week of the term (or the first day of Summer Sessions), students will have the opportunity to change their registration. After that point, the student locks in the number of credit hours he/she is attempting for satisfactory academic progress requirements.
- Students who have met all degree requirements are no longer eligible for financial aid. This will include:
 - Students who have attempted more than 150% of the credit hours required for a specific program or degree;
 - Undergraduate students who have completed 124 hours and all other degree requirements;
 - Students seeking a Second Degree, Teacher Certification, or Teacher Internship who have met all requirements for their program;
 - Graduate students:
 - Seeking an endorsement who have met all requirements for that endorsement;
 - Seeking a Master's Degree who have met all requirements for Master's Degree