Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Federal regulations require that schools participating in federal financial aid programs determine whether students are progressing through their program of study in a satisfactory “qualitative” academic manner and at a satisfactory “quantitative” rate. This requires the Financial Aid Office to make a determination that all applicants are eligible for financial assistance based on their prior academic records (whether or not they ever received financial aid).

All students enrolled at UACCH who receive financial aid through Title IV assistance programs must meet the satisfactory academic progress requirements as defined below in order to be eligible for financial aid. Satisfactory academic progress will be checked at the end of each semester (fall, spring, and summer).

**Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)**
Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average consistent with the institution’s graduation standards to receive financial aid. Students who are suspended because of failure to maintain the minimum GPA are not making satisfactory academic progress and will not be eligible for financial aid until the minimum cumulative GPA has been earned (0-22 hours: 1.75 GPA; 23 hours and above: 2.00 GPA).

**Credit Hour Requirement**
Students must complete a minimum of 67% of the hours in which they enroll per semester (maintaining the required cumulative GPA) in order to satisfy the requirements of the Financial Aid Satisfactory Progress Policy. In order to receive financial aid, a student must be making satisfactory progress, regardless of whether he/she has previously received Title IV aid.

**Length of Time**
A degree-seeking student has eligibility for financial aid until 90 semester hours have been accumulated or attempted, and a certificate-seeking student is allowed 150 percent of the total hours required for the program to complete a certificate. All courses attempted at UACCH and previously attended institutions will be counted in the determination of hours attempted. This includes grades of F, W, WP, WF, I, audits and repeated courses. Once a degree or certificate has been earned, a student must commit to a higher degree at UACCH before further financial aid will be awarded. Students may use Title IV funds to repeat a course only when they have received grades of “D” or “F” in the course.

**LEU**
The amount of *Federal Pell Grant* funds you may receive over your lifetime (LEU) is limited by a new federal law to be the equivalent of six years of Pell Grant funding. Since the maximum amount of Pell Grant funding you can receive each year is equal to 100%, the six-year equivalent is 600%.

For example, if a student’s Pell Grant for the year is for $5,000 and receives $2,500 in Fall and $2,500 in Spring. The student has received the entire $5,000 or 100% for the year.

| Fall $2,500 (50%) | Spring $2,500 (50%) | = to 100% eligibility (which is 2 semesters at fulltime) |

The 600% total eligibility applies at all schools and colleges. However, once the student has earned a Bachelor’s Degree, he/she is no longer eligible for a Pell Grant even if he/she has not received the entire 600% eligibility. In addition, a student must also meet and maintain satisfactory academic progress standards to remain eligible each year.
UACCH is required to adhere to this policy. Since UACCH is a community college, we are required to take half of the 6 full-time semesters. Since this is the case, a student is eligible for 3 full-time years (300%) or 6 semesters.

Once your LEU equals or exceeds 600%, you may no longer receive Pell Grant funding. Similarly, if your LEU is greater than 500% but less than 600%, while you will be eligible for a Pell Grant for the next award year, you will not be able to receive a full scheduled award.

**Exclusion**

Students who withdraw from total enrollment (or are administratively withdrawn) or fail to successfully complete any credit hours will automatically be placed on Financial Aid Exclusion and will be ineligible for any Title IV financial aid at UACCH. Once a student is placed on Financial Aid exclusion, he/she will have to meet all satisfactory progress policies to become eligible for Title IV funds again.

**Financial Aid Probation, Suspension, and Reinstatement**

In order to maintain financial aid eligibility, students must complete the required number of credit hours and maintain the required cumulative grade point average as stated in the satisfactory academic progress policy. Financial aid recipients will be placed on financial aid probation any semester their cumulative GPA falls below that consistent with the institution’s graduation standards (0-22 hours: 1.75 GPA; 23 hours and above: 2.00 GPA) and/or if they withdraw/are dropped from over 50% of the classes they originally enrolled in. Students will continue to be eligible for some types of financial aid while on probation. If satisfactory academic progress is not met at the end of the probationary semester, students will be placed on financial aid suspension. Note: Reinstatement to class by the Admissions Appeals Committee does not reinstate a student to the financial aid programs.

**Criteria for Re-establishing Eligibility for Financial Aid**

Students who have been determined ineligible for Federal Financial Aid due to Satisfactory Progress may re-establish satisfactory progress and regain eligibility by satisfying one of the following conditions:

1. Pay one semester with own resources and make satisfactory progress per the satisfactory academic progress policy.
2. Complete course work to remove an “Incomplete” from the transcript if all other Satisfactory Progress requirements are met.
3. Petition the Financial Aid Appeals Committee in writing for reinstatement of financial assistance.

Students who re-establish eligibility for financial aid will receive that aid on a probationary status. The Satisfactory Progress requirements must be met in order to remain eligible.

**Appeal Process**

Students whose aid is cancelled may appeal this decision ONLY if there are EXTENUATING circumstances. To appeal, the student must complete and return the Appeal Form to the UACCH Financial Aid Office in writing within 30 days from the date the student was notified of his/her non-compliance. The appeal should include a statement explaining the request for financial aid reinstatement and an explanation of the reasons for the request. Supporting documentation should be attached whenever possible. Once the appeal has been submitted the committee will review the appeal to determine whether or not circumstances beyond the student’s control prevented him/her from maintaining satisfactory progress. The student will be notified of the committee’s decision in writing, normally within ten (10) days of the date the appeal was received in the Financial Aid Office. Appeals that are approved are not retroactive to previous semesters.