



Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Annmarie Weisman

U.S. Department of Education

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Program Integrity

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: June 18, 2010
- Comment period ended: August 2, 2010
- Final regulations published: October 29, 2010
- Effective date of new regulations: July 1, 2011





Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

34 C.F.R. §§668.16(e), 668.32(f), and 668.34



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Why Change SAP Requirements?

Last
comprehensive
look in 1983

Inconsistent
terminology
used by
institutions

Excess use of
probation

More
structured,
comprehensive,
and consistent
approach





SAP Regulations

Before July 1, 2011:

- SAP in 3 regulatory sections
 - Administrative capability: 668.16(e)
 - Student eligibility: 668.32(f)
 - SAP: 668.34

Effective July 1, 2011:

- Puts all SAP requirements in 668.34
 - Cross references in 668.16(e) and 668.32(f)





SAP (cont' d)

New regulations provide—

- Continued flexibility for institutions in establishing their SAP policies
- Additional flexibility for institutions that monitor SAP more often than annually
- Definitions for “warning” and “probation”
- In general, a student who is not making SAP is no longer eligible for Title IV aid





SAP (cont.)

What the new regs do:

- Allow additional flexibility to institutions that monitor SAP more frequently than required

What the new regs don't do:

- No requirement to monitor SAP more frequently
- No requirement to put a student on an academic plan
- No specification about who must monitor a student when a school chooses to use an academic plan





SAP (cont.)

What the new regs do:

- Provide definitions for the terms “warning” and “probation”

What the new regs don't do:

- Require a school to use SAP “warning”





SAP (cont.)

What the new regs do:

- Provide definitions for the terms “warning” and “probation”

What the new regs don't do:

- Require a school to use SAP “warning”





SAP (cont.)

What the new regs do:

- Allow institutions to establish their own SAP policies that meet the needs of their students

What the new regs don't do:

- Prohibit a school from establishing a SAP policy that evaluates 1st & 2nd year students each payment period and 3rd year and beyond students each year





SAP Policy Requirements

SAP policy requirements

Specified in §668.34 and include—

- Measurement of student's progress at each evaluation—
 - Can take place each payment period, annually, or less often than each payment period
 - Must occur at the end of a payment period





SAP Policy Requirements (cont.)

SAP policy requirements (more)

- GPA that a student must achieve at each evaluation (qualitative standard)
- Pace of progression to ensure completion within the maximum time frame (quantitative standard)
 - Pace must be measured at each evaluation





SAP Policy Requirements (cont.)

SAP policy requirements (more)

- How student's GPA and pace are affected by incompletes, withdrawals, repetitions, or transfers of credits
- Institutions to count transfer hours accepted toward completion of the student's program as both hours attempted and hours completed





SAP Policy Requirements (cont.)

SAP policy requirements (cont.)

- Description of and conditions surrounding “warning” and “probation” statuses, if used
- The specific elements and process required for appeal
- How a student can reestablish eligibility





SAP Warning

Financial Aid Warning:

- Status assigned to a student who fails to make SAP at an institution that evaluates SAP at the end of each payment period
- Student may continue to receive Title IV aid for one payment period
- No appeal necessary





SAP Probation

Financial Aid Probation:

- Status assigned by an institution to a student who fails to make SAP and who has appealed and has had eligibility for Title IV aid reinstated
- Institution may impose conditions for student's continued eligibility to receive Title IV aid





SAP Appeal

Appeal:

- A process by which a student who is not meeting an institution's SAP policy petitions the institution for reconsideration of the student's eligibility for Title IV aid
- Must specify the conditions under which a student may appeal





SAP Appeal (cont.)

Appeal (cont.):

A student appeal must include both of these:

- Why the student failed to make SAP
- What has changed that will allow the student to make SAP at the next evaluation





SAP (cont' d)

Institutions that evaluate SAP each payment period

- Student loses eligibility for Title IV aid
- Student may be placed on Financial Aid Warning for one payment period
- Student must make SAP or may be placed on Financial Aid Probation after an appeal





SAP (cont' d)

Institutions that evaluate SAP each payment period (cont.)

- After Financial Aid Probation, the student must be:
 - making SAP, or
 - successfully following an academic plan





SAP (cont' d)

Institutions that evaluate SAP less often than each payment period

- Student loses eligibility for Title IV aid
- Student may be placed on Financial Aid Probation after an appeal
- After Financial Aid Probation, the student must be making SAP or successfully following an academic plan





SAP (cont' d)

Required Notifications:

- Institution must notify student of results of SAP review that impacts the student's eligibility for Title IV aid
- If the institution has an appeal process, must describe the specific elements required to appeal SAP





SAP (cont' d)

Required Notifications (cont.):

- If the institution does not have an appeal process, must describe how a student who has failed SAP reestablishes eligibility for Title IV aid





SAP FAQ

FAQs:

- May a school use different standards for different classes of students?
- May a school evaluating quantitative each payment period and qualitative once a year?





SAP FAQ (cont.)

FAQs:

- How do we handle SAP for the 2011 summer crossover payment period?
- What must the academic plan contain?
- Who must monitor the academic plan?





Other Questions?



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Your Region III Training Team

- Greg Martin, Training Officer
 - 215-656-6452
 - gregory.martin@ed.gov
- Craig Rorie, Training Officer
 - 215-656-5916
 - craig.rorie@ed.gov
- Annmarie Weisman, Training Officer
 - 215-656-6456
 - annmarie.weisman@ed.gov





Contact Information

- If you have follow-up questions about this session, contact me at:
 - Annmarie Weisman, Training Officer
 - annmarie.weisman@ed.gov
 - 215-656-6456
- To provide feedback to my supervisor:
 - Tom Threlkeld, Supervisor
 - thomas.threlkeld@ed.gov
 - 617-289-0144

