Federal regulations require UW-Stout to establish reasonable standards for measuring satisfactory academic progress (SAP) in the financial aid recipient’s educational programs. SAP will be reviewed yearly, following the end of the spring semester, after grades have been submitted for the semester. This policy is separate from existing academic policies. However, if you are dismissed from the University for any reason, your financial aid will be suspended. In order to continue to be eligible for financial aid, you must comply with the following SAP standards:

Standard for Minimum Credits Completed
You must successfully complete at least 67% of all the credits you attempt to remain eligible for financial aid. To determine if you are meeting the requirement, divide your completed credits by your attempted credits. For example, if you enrolled in 9 credits at the beginning of your first semester and only successfully completed 6 of those credits (6 divided by 9 is 66.6%), you would not meet the SAP standards and your financial aid would be suspended.

Standard for Maximum Time Frame
You are eligible for financial aid up to 125% of the minimum credit requirements of your program. If you fail to complete your graduate degree within the 125% maximum time frame, you will not be eligible for further financial aid. For example, if your graduate program requires 40 credits, you would no longer be eligible for financial aid when you reach 50 graduate credits (40 x 125% = 50).

You are only eligible for federal financial aid for your first graduate degree. The only exception to this policy is if you are pursuing an EDS (Education Specialist) degree after or during pursuit of a related graduate program.

As a graduate student applying for financial aid, you will be reviewed for both SAP standards (minimum credits completed and maximum time frame requirements) prior to determining financial aid for the academic year since your eligibility may be limited (or denied) based on your remaining time frame for successful completion of your degree.

You are allowed to appeal a failure of the SAP standards once in your graduate career at UW-Stout. If it is determined that you cannot meet the requirements within one year and be in good standing, the appeal will be denied.

All graduate students who receive financial aid will receive a separate email notification of the SAP Policy for Graduate Students. This message will direct you to contact the Financial Aid Office if you have questions.