Federal regulations require UW-Stout to establish reasonable standards for measuring satisfactory academic progress (SAP) in the financial aid recipient’s educational programs. The SAP standards are reviewed at the end of every Fall, Spring, and Summer semester, after grades have been posted, for every financial aid recipient. This policy is separate from the University’s Standards of Academic Probation and Suspension. You could be in good standing academically with the University but still be ineligible to receive financial aid. In order to continue to be eligible for financial aid, you must comply with the following SAP standards:

Standard for Grade Point Average
Undergraduate students (including transfer students) are required to maintain at least a cumulative 2.0 grade point average (GPA) throughout their enrollment until degree completion. Students who already have a Bachelor’s degree and are seeking a 2nd degree are required to maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA at all times.

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 cumulative completed credits by your cumulative attempted credits. For example, if you enrolled in 15 credits at the beginning of your first semester and only successfully completed 9 of those credits (9 divided by 15 is 60%), you would not meet the SAP standards. Another example: if you are at the end of your third semester, have 39 credits attempted previously with 30 of those completed successfully, and in your fourth semester took 15 credits but only completed 3 credits, you would not meet the standard since 33 divided by 54 is only 61%.

Your “attempted credits” is the number of credits you were enrolled in on the 10th day of class each semester. In reviewing for minimum credits completed, a grade of “D-” or better is considered successful completion. Incomplete grades (“I” and “IP”), failing grades (“F”, “FN” and “FS”), withdrawn grades (“W”, “WS” and “WU”), unreported grades, “no credit”, or “audit” grades are counted as attempted credits, but not as completed credits. Transfer credits are not included in the calculation.

Standard for Maximum Time Frame
You are eligible for financial aid up to 150% of the minimum credit requirement of your program. If you fail to complete your undergraduate degree within the 150% maximum time frame, you will not be eligible for further financial aid. For example, if your undergraduate program requires 120 credits, you would no longer be eligible for financial aid when you attempt more than 180 credits (120 x 150% = 180). “Attempted credits” are defined above. Credits transferred in are counted. If you add additional majors or minors than what is required for your degree or if you change your major, you are still held to the 150% maximum for financial aid eligibility.
Transfer students who transfer in with 90 or more credits should consult with a Financial Aid Counselor to determine future eligibility for financial aid. Post-bac students (those who already have a Bachelor’s degree and are seeking a 2nd degree) are eligible for financial aid for a maximum of 75 credits. If you fall in this category, you should confirm your aid eligibility with a Financial Aid Counselor.
Financial Aid Warning Status
The first time you fall below either the GPA or Minimum Credits Completed SAP standards, you are placed on Financial Aid Warning for the subsequent semester and notified by email. On Financial Aid Warning, you may continue to receive financial aid for that one semester. At the completion of that semester on Financial Aid Warning, you must meet the standards or you will be placed on Ineligible Status for the subsequent semester.

Financial Aid Ineligible Status
There are two ways in which you can be placed on Ineligible Status:

- If you were on Financial Aid Warning and did not meet the SAP standards after your Warning semester, you will be Ineligible for financial aid for your subsequent semester. In order to regain eligibility for aid, you must meet the standards again OR successfully appeal your Ineligible Status.
- If you do not meet the SAP Standard for Maximum Time Frame, you will be placed on Ineligible Status.

When you are on Ineligible Status, you will be notified by email and the instructions on how to appeal will be included.

Approved SAP Appeal: Probation or Academic Plan
If you were placed on Ineligible Status, you can appeal this by documenting the following:

- Extenuating, non-academic circumstances which prevented you from meeting the SAP standards
- Information regarding why you failed to meet the SAP standards, and what has changed in your situation that will allow you to improve your academic progress

If your appeal is approved, you will be placed on Probation or an Academic Plan:

- If it is possible for you to meet the SAP standards after one semester, you will be placed on Probation. You can receive financial aid during this probationary semester.
- If it is not possible for you to meet the SAP standards after one semester, you will be placed on an Academic Plan. Your Financial Aid Counselor will communicate the terms of your Academic Plan or may ask you to provide a program plan that is signed by your academic advisor. You must meet the terms of the plan each semester to remain eligible for financial aid, otherwise you will return to Ineligible Status.

The appeal policy is to grant no more than one appeal for the extenuating circumstance and not to approve more than three appeals in a student’s career.

Regaining Eligibility
If you cannot appeal because you did not have extenuating circumstances, you can regain eligibility for financial aid by improving your academic progress and meeting the SAP standards. You will be reviewed against the SAP standards at the end of each Fall, Spring, and Summer semester.