

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**

### ***What is Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)?***

Federal regulations state that if you receive federal financial aid, you must maintain a satisfactory rate of progress towards the completion of a degree (i.e. you must pass and earn a certain number of classes/credits) and must be in a good standing based on a cumulative grade point average (GPA). These are federal guidelines, not guidelines specific to Albright College. The specific guidelines are below, and you can read more about the full SAP policy [HERE](#).

### ***Does this really mean I can't receive any financial aid?***

If you do not meet SAP, you cannot receive federal, state, or institutional financial aid ***unless you submit and are granted an appeal***. You may still be able to receive private loans and/or participate in a tuition payment for your expenses. Not being able to receive financial aid does not necessarily mean that you are “kicked out” of or suspended from Albright College- that information will come from Academic Affairs.

### ***How do I submit an appeal?***

To qualify for an appeal, extenuating circumstances (i.e. medical or physiological circumstances, personal/family emergency, military service/deployment, etc.) must have prevented you from maintaining SAP. If you feel that you have had extenuating circumstances that prevented you from maintaining SAP, your next step is to schedule an appointment with your Success Coach or academic advisor. You will work together to develop an academic plan that you will follow to improve your academic performance. This will include reviewing your scheduled classes for the next term and create goals to ensure that you maintain SAP. With your Success Coach or academic advisor, complete this form and submit it to the Financial Aid Office.

### ***My appeal was approved. Now what?***

Your financial aid is reinstated for the following term. You are now placed on Financial Aid probation. Your academic progress will be checked at the end of that term to ensure that you have met the goals of your plan. Do your best to follow through with the plans you developed with your Success Coach or academic advisor. Notify the Financial Aid Office if any changes to your schedule or plan arise. If you meet your plan goals at the end of the term, you will resume financial aid eligibility until the next SAP review (end of spring term). If you fail to meet the requirements of your academic plan for that term and are still out of SAP compliance, you will lose financial aid eligibility until you are back within official SAP compliance per Albright College.

### ***What if I can't get off Financial Aid Probation in one semester?***

If it is statistically impossible for you to meet SAP after one term of Financial Aid Probation, an academic plan will be required to span over two semesters. If a Financial Aid Probation period is granted based on an academic plan, you must meet the terms of your academic plan after each semester to continue your Financial Aid Probation period. If the terms of your academic plan are not met after each review, you will have your financial aid suspended for the following term until you are back in good SAP standing. Until then, you will be responsible for your tuition costs.

### ***What are the specific guidelines I must follow to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress?***

Satisfactory Academic Progress is checked at the end of each spring semester to ensure that you are maintaining a satisfactory pace of completed credits and cumulative Grade Point Average within the maximum timeframe allotted by federal aid.

- **Pace Requirement:** Both undergraduate and graduate students must successfully complete 67% of the cumulative attempted credits.
- **Cumulative Grade Point Average:** The grade point average calculated at Albright from all credits taken
  - Undergraduate students must have obtained a cumulative GPA of 1.7 after their first academic year and a cumulative GPA of a 2.0 year thereafter.
  - Graduate students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.
- **Maximum Time Frame:** The maximum period in which students may receive financial aid is based on the degree program in which they are enrolled. Students have a maximum of 150% of the credits required to complete the program to remain eligible for financial aid.
  - Bachelor's degree programs that require 120 credits to graduate will have a total of 180 attempted credits allowed, not to exceed 6 calendar years from the beginning of the initial semester including periods of non-enrollment.
  - Graduate degree programs that require 30 credits to graduate will have a total of 45 attempted credits allowed, not to exceed 4 calendar years from the beginning of the initial semester including periods of non-enrollment.
    - There are limited appeals or extensions of the 150% maximum time frame rule. Students may continue to receive limited federal financial aid assistance and will also be able to apply for private loan funding or participate in a tuition payment plan for their educational expenses.