Federal regulations mandate minimum standards of "satisfactory progress" for students receiving financial assistance. These requirements apply to the student’s entire academic history, whether financial aid was received or not, and to all types of aid: grants, loans, and work-study. The standards for determining progress at the University are composed of three separate measurements: grade point average (GPA), credit hour requirements, and maximum hours allowed. All students must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program. Newly enrolled undergraduate students must be admitted "in good standing."

Students who are admitted to Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) as Non-Degree, Provisional (except graduate students who will be given one semester to remove provisional status), Transient, Summer Prep, Career Interest or Self-Improvement, Audit Courses, AARC (090) tutoring, or on academic suspension shall NOT be eligible to receive financial aid. When the student is admitted to a degree program, special student status is changed, or suspension status is removed, an eligible student may then be considered for financial assistance.

**GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)**

The grade point average is the quantitative measurement used for academic work at the university. For financial aid purposes, a student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 1.6 or better as a freshman, 1.8 or better as a sophomore, 2.0 or better as a junior or senior, and 3.0 or better as a graduate student. Grade point averages shall be checked on an annual basis for satisfactory progress.

**CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENTS**

The credit hour requirement is the quantitative measurement of the minimum number of hours completed each year at SFA. A year is defined as beginning in the summer and running through the following spring session.

In order to receive financial assistance, undergraduates must complete 67% of the hours attempted.

Credit hours shall be considered satisfactorily completed if one of the following grades is earned: A, B, C, D, or P. Grades of F, W, WH, WF, WP, or QF are not satisfactory. If graduate students receive a WH for thesis/dissertation research or thesis/dissertation writing, the hours shall not be counted as hours attempted due to the length of time needed to complete this degree requirement. Time limits on the research and writing of a thesis/dissertation are determined by the academic department.

Students who withdraw from the university prior to the end of a session or do not make satisfactory progress shall be denied financial assistance for the upcoming session. Students may reapply after satisfactory progress has been achieved.

Financial aid may be awarded to students enrolled for remedial courses (098 & 099). These courses are considered attempted hours and are also counted as earned hours for determining satisfactory progress for financial aid purposes. Repeated classes are treated the same as any other class.

**MAXIMUM HOURS ALLOWED**

The maximum allowable hours at each level of study apply to all students regardless of the number of changes in major or concentration. A student’s entire academic record at SFA (including prerequisite courses) is used in calculating hours toward the maximum requirement. Course work transferred to SFA shall count toward the maximum number of allowable credit hours. Maximum hours allowed shall be checked after each semester.

For all degree programs, the maximum number of hours allowed will be set at one-and-a-half times the minimum program length. For post-baccalaureate programs, the maximum numbers of attempted hours is 36.

Students not in compliance are ineligible for assistance until they make up the credit hour deficiency from the last evaluation period and/or bring their GPA to the standard indicated. Once the deficiency is made up, students should notify the Financial Aid Office.

Students who are not making satisfactory academic progress may file a written appeal to the Financial Aid Office within thirty (30) days after notification of denial of financial aid. Appeals should include all documentation that supports mitigating circumstances concerning the failure to maintain the expected level of satisfactory progress. If an appeal is granted, the student must meet satisfactory academic progress requirements by the end of the next evaluation period. All decisions on appeals are final. Students shall be notified in writing and/or email.