

REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS AND WAIVERS

In 2013, the Texas legislature passed a bill that requires persons receiving certain exemptions for the payment of tuition and/or fees to maintain a grade point average (GPA) that satisfies the university's GPA requirement for making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or certificate in accordance with the university's policy regarding eligibility for financial aid. Currently, those requirements can be found in university policy 6.16, Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Recipients. That policy can be found on the financial aid website at <http://www.sfasu.edu/faid/satisacprog.asp>.

The GPA requirements apply to both undergraduate and graduate students. The GPA requirements are based on the requirements in effect for the last semester enrolled, with summer treated as a single semester. Based on the changes made to the Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Recipients policy in July 2015, the new GPA requirements are 2.0 for undergraduate students and 3.0 for graduate students, and are effective for students enrolled in summer classes of 2015 or thereafter.

Additionally, in order to maintain eligibility for continuation of an exemption or waiver, undergraduate students must not have completed as of the beginning of the semester or term a number of semester credit hours that is considered to be excessive under Section 54.014. These excessive hour rules vary depending on the date the student first enrolled at the university. They can be found on the university's website at: http://www.sfasu.edu/controller/businessoffice/students/excess_credit.asp In determining whether a person has completed a number of semester credit hours that is considered to be excessive, semester credit hours completed include transfer credit hours that count toward the person's undergraduate degree or certificate program course requirements but exclude:

- (1) hours earned exclusively by examination;
- (2) hours earned for a course for which the person received credit toward the person's high school academic requirements; and
- (3) hours earned for developmental coursework that an institution of higher education required the person to take under Section 51.3062 or under the former provisions of Section 51.306.

If on the completion of any semester or term a person fails to meet the GPA requirements described above or has reached the excessive hour rule limits, the person may not receive the exemption or waiver for the next semester or term in which the person enrolls.

A person may become eligible to receive an exemption or waiver in a subsequent semester or term if the person:

- (1) completes a semester or term during which the person is not eligible for an exemption or waiver; and
- (2) meets the GPA requirement

A person may not become eligible to receive an exemption or waiver in a subsequent semester or term if they lose their eligibility because of the excessive hour rules unless they graduate and/or are no longer subject to this rule.

Students impacted by these new rules may receive an exemption or waiver in any semester or term if they can show hardship or other good cause, including

- (1) a showing of a severe illness or other debilitating condition that could affect the student's academic performance;
- (2) an indication that the student is responsible for the care of a sick, injured, or needy person and that the student's provision of care could affect the student's academic performance;
- (3) the student's active duty or other service in the United States armed forces or the student's active duty in the Texas National Guard; or
- (4) other hardship or cause that would be considered under the university's fiscal appeals policy.

Students must follow the university's fiscal appeals policy in order to qualify for these exceptions. More information on student fiscal appeals may be found at

<http://www.sfasu.edu/controller/docs/business/student-fiscal-appeals.pdf>.

For purposes of this policy, these rules will apply to most of the university exemptions and waivers. The following exemptions are not subject to these requirements:

1. Dual Credit Exemption (TEC 54.216, TEC 130.008)
2. Foster Care Exemption (TEC 54.366)
3. Prisoners of War (TEC 54.342)
4. Children or spouses of veterans killed in action, missing in action, or who died as a result of a service-related illness or injury; (TEC 54.341 (a-2)(1)(A), (B), (C), or (D) or (TEC54.341(b)(1)(A), (B), (C), or (D)) *
5. Non-resident students authorized or required to pay resident rates.

*Vets, children/spouse of disabled veterans (TEC 54.341(a-2)(1)(E) or TEC54.341(b)(E)) and students receiving the Hazlewood Legacy exemptions ARE subject to the continuation requirements.