SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, requires all colleges and universities including South Piedmont Community College to develop and enforce standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress prior to awarding any federal financial aid funds to students. The standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) were established to encourage students to successfully complete courses for which federal financial aid is received, and to progress satisfactorily toward degree completion. The SAP standards apply to federal financial aid programs, including Federal Pell Grant and Federal Work-Study. The SAP standards are separate from, and in addition to, academic standards required by the College for continued enrollment.

The criteria used to determine SAP are cumulative grade point average, cumulative completion rate (or pace), and maximum time frame for completion of educational objectives. At the end of each term, the Office of Financial Aid reviews students' academic progress. All periods of enrollment are reviewed, including semesters during which no financial aid was received.

QUALITATIVE REQUIREMENT—CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE (G.P.A.)

The qualitative evaluation monitors a student's progress based on their cumulative grade point average (GPA). The College applies a tiered GPA scale to apply the qualitative requirements. The minimum GPA required by the College's SAP policy adjusts according to the number of credit hours the student has attempted:

- Remedial course grades are not calculated into the GPA.
- Transfer course grades are not calculated into the GPA

QUANTITATIVE REQUIREMENT—COMPLETION RATE (PACE)

All students must complete and pass a minimum percentage of all hours attempted at the College. A student's completion rate is calculated by dividing hours earned by hours attempted. The minimum completion percentage required by the College's SAP policy changes according to the number of credit hours the student has attempted:

- **Note:** The College only accepts transfer credits with a grade of "C-" or better. All accepted transfer credits are counted as attempted and completed credits in the quantitative and maximum timeframe SAP evaluation.
- Grade Codes of AP, AU, CC, CE, P, R, SR, TP **_will not_** be calculated in the SAP Process.

Withdrawals (W, WE, WI) failed grades (F), Incomplete grades (I, IE) **_will be_** counted in the SAP process.

Drops and Never Attended are not included in the SAP calculation process.

Audit coursework and Military Withdrawals are not taken into consideration for the calculation. Remedial coursework is not included in the quantitative calculation, as permitted by federal regulations.

As permitted by federal regulation, SPCC counts up to one academic year's worth of remedial courses in a student's enrollment status for Title IV funds. For the purpose of this limit, that is 30 semester hours at the College.

MAXIMUM TIME FRAME FOR COMPLETION OF EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE

The maximum time frame requires an evaluation based on total number of credit hours attempted, to ensure the student is making appropriate progress towards degree.

SPCC students will be eligible for financial aid for a maximum of attempted credit hours equal to 150% of the credits required to complete their academic program. If the program requires 30 credit hours, the maximum attempted hours permitted under this policy is 45. If the program requires 60 credit hours, the student may attempt 90 credit hours under this policy.

Transfer hours accepted by SPCC are included both in the total number of hours attempted and total hours completed.

Attempted hours are counted for all terms, even those for which the student did not receive financial aid, and include transfer hours and hours waived under academic amnesty policies.

Students calculated as Maximum Time Frame but have successfully completed one credential-seeking program of study will have those credit hours subtracted from the new program objective. All credit hours attempted toward the new program objective will be calculated toward that academic program. Repetition of credential-seeking programs of study will be reviewed by the SAP Appeal Board for approval.

SAP APPEAL PROCESS FOR UNSATISFACTORY AND MAXIMUM TIME FRAME

Students are encouraged to appeal their loss of financial aid eligibility. Appeals must be submitted 10 days prior to the start of the semester in which a student wishes to receive financial aid. Financial Aid SAP Appeal Forms should be completed in full and include supporting documentation and the students' academic plan. All appeals will be presented to the SAP Appeal's Committee for approval or denial. The decision is final.

REINSTATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

If the student loses financial aid eligibility by failing to meet the Academic and or Program Completion standard and after self-pay or the use of outside resources and feels that the standards have been met, the student should contact the Office of Financial Aid and Veteran Services to have their SAP status recalculated. If the standards have been met, the student will regain financial aid eligibility for the following semester in which the standards were met, provided all other financial aid requirements have been completed.