

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL AID
SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY
Effective Date: Spring 2016**

Federal regulations require Sul Ross State University to establish and apply reasonable standards of satisfactory progress for the purpose of receiving financial aid under the programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act. The Office of Financial Aid has oversight of student financial aid programs intended to help students achieve access to higher education and accomplish academic goals. Each aid recipient must maintain satisfactory academic progress in a course of study leading toward a degree or certificate. Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is measured after each long semester.

Undergraduate/Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certification Students

GPA

All undergraduate/post-baccalaureate teacher certification students:

- Must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for undergraduates, 2.5 for post-baccalaureate teacher certification students to remain in good standing.
- Will be placed on Financial Aid Warning if their cumulative GPA falls below 2.0/2.5. Students on Financial Aid Warning are eligible to receive financial aid but are cautioned to strive to improve their academic standing.
- The grade for a course is not calculated in the grade point average if the course is repeated and a passing grade is received. For repeated courses the final grade will be counted and all hours attempted, including repeated courses, will count toward the time limit below.

Undergraduate/post-baccalaureate teacher certification students on **Financial Aid Warning** will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension if they fail to achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.0 at the end of their semester of warning. Students placed on **Financial Aid Warning and Financial Aid Suspension** will be notified by email.

Completion

In addition to maintaining the overall GPA requirement, students must make reasonable progress toward their degree or certificate. All undergraduate/post-baccalaureate teacher certification students:

- Must successfully complete at least 67% of all hours attempted. Grades of F, W, PR, and I are not considered as satisfactory completion but do count as attempted hours.
- Will be placed on Financial Aid Warning if their overall percentage of completion rate falls below 67%.

Undergraduate/post-baccalaureate teacher certification students on **Financial Aid Warning** will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension if they fail to achieve an overall completion rate of 67% at the end of their semester of warning. Students placed on **Financial Aid Warning and Financial Aid Suspension** will be notified by email.

Time Limits

All undergraduate/post-baccalaureate teacher certification students are expected to complete their program of study within 150% of the hours required to obtain the degree.

Undergraduate/post-baccalaureate teacher certification students who have exceeded these time limits will no longer be eligible for financial aid. These limits include all courses attempted, including summer sessions, periods when the student doesn't receive any Title IV aid, work toward all degrees (regardless of change in major or degree), withdrawn courses, and repeated courses. Students placed on **Financial Aid Warning and Financial Aid Suspension** will be notified by email.

Graduate Students

GPA

All graduate students:

- Must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 to remain in good standing.
- Will be placed on Financial Aid Warning if their cumulative GPA falls below 3.0. Students on Financial Aid Warning are eligible to receive financial aid but are cautioned to strive to improve their academic standing.

Graduate students on **Financial Aid Warning** will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension if they fail to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the end of their semester of warning. Students placed on **Financial Aid Warning and Financial Aid Suspension** will be notified by email.

Completion

In addition to maintaining the overall GPA requirement, students must make reasonable progress toward their degree or certificate. All graduate students:

- Must successfully complete at least 67% of all hours attempted. Grades of F, W, PR, and I are not considered as satisfactory completion.
- Will be placed on Financial Aid Warning if their overall percentage of completion rate falls below 67%.

Graduate students on **Financial Aid Warning** will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension if they fail to achieve an overall completion rate of 67% at the end of their semester of warning. Students placed on **Financial Aid Warning and Financial Aid Suspension** will be notified by email.

Time Limits

All graduate students are expected to complete their program of study within 150% of the hours needed to obtain the degree, after which they will no longer be eligible for financial aid.

Financial Aid Suspension

Financial Aid Warning is limited to one semester. A student who fails to meet the overall standards while on Financial Aid Warning will be placed on **Financial Aid Suspension**. Students placed on **Financial Aid Warning and Financial Aid Suspension** will be notified by email.

Appeal of Financial Aid Suspension

Students with special circumstances may appeal their Financial Aid Suspension in writing to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. Forms are available in the Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid Office may also be contacted for information on appeals filing deadlines. The decision of the Financial Aid Appeal Committee will be final.

- Appeals may be made based on:
 - A death in the immediate family.
 - Serious injury or illness of the student or a member of the immediate family.
 - Improvement sufficient to meet required standards in hours and/or GPA while attending a subsequent semester at student's own expense.
 - Special circumstances to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. (Students on Financial Aid Suspension who have not attended college for at least one calendar year may appeal based on change of circumstances).
- A student whose appeal is **granted** will be reinstated on **Financial Aid Probation** and may receive financial aid for only one upcoming semester/term. A student on Financial Aid Probation must complete the probationary period with at least a 2.0 GPA for undergraduates, 2.5 GPA for post-baccalaureate teacher certification, and 3.0 GPA for graduates, and complete 67% of all their coursework.
- A student on Financial Aid Suspension whose appeal is **denied** by the committee may contact the Vice President of Enrollment Management to further review their appeal request. The VP of Enrollment Management, at their discretion, may ask the financial aid appeals committee to review the case again due to extenuating circumstances.

Financial Aid may be reinstated under the following conditions:

- The required cumulative GPA is attained; and
- An overall completion rate of 67% of hours attempted is achieved.