Satisfactory Academic Progress

UNLV Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships

To remain eligible for federal, state, and institutional financial aid at UNLV, you must demonstrate that you are making steady progress toward earning your degree. This is measured by three specific standards, collectively known as Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). For scholarship renewability criteria, visit the UNLV Scholarships webpage.

UNLV evaluates your SAP status at the end of every semester, after grades are posted (Fall, Spring, and Summer). A student is either meeting SAP for all applicable aid programs or is not; SAP status applies uniformly across all programs listed in this policy.

Your entire academic history at UNLV is reviewed, including transfer credits, remedial classes, repeated classes, consortium agreement credits, and college classes taken while a high school student, even if you were not a financial aid recipient at the time.

SECTION 1: Programs Governed by This Policy

This policy applies to the following aid programs:

Federal Grant Programs:
- Pell Grant
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant

Federal Loan Programs:
- Direct Subsidized
- Direct Unsubsidized Loans
- Direct Parent PLUS Loans
- Direct Graduate PLUS Loans

Federal Work Programs:
- Federal Work-Study
- America Reads and America Counts Programs

Notes:
- Eligibility for graduate assistantships and fellowships, as well as dependent or employee fee waivers, is not governed by this policy.
- Law, Dental and Medical students are governed by their own SAP policies for the completion of their degree programs.
- State grants and scholarships not listed above (e.g., the Nevada Bob Davis Scholarship) may be subject to separate academic progress standards. Contact the awarding office for the criteria that apply to a specific award.

SECTION 2: Institutional Alignment

UNLV's financial aid SAP standards meet or exceed the University's general academic progress requirements for students not receiving financial aid. Federal regulations require a school's SAP policy to be at least as strict, in terms of qualitative and quantitative standards, as the standard

the school applies to similarly enrolled students who are not receiving Title IV aid. This policy is at least as strict as the academic standing standards sections published in the UNLV undergraduate and graduate catalogs for the same programs of study. Students must meet all three SAP components described in this policy to maintain financial aid eligibility.

SECTION 3: The Three Components of SAP

To maintain your eligibility for financial aid, you must meet all three of the following requirements.

1. GPA (The Qualitative Standard)
You must maintain a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average to demonstrate academic success. Undergraduate Students must maintain at least a 2.00 cumulative GPA. Graduate Students must maintain at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA.

UNLV applies standard rounding to all SAP measurements. A cumulative GPA of 1.995 or higher (undergraduate) or 2.995 or higher (graduate) counts as meeting the GPA requirement.

Remedial coursework must be included in the qualitative assessment of SAP. These courses need not be counted in your GPA; however, UNLV must assess your qualitative progress in remedial coursework by an equivalent measure. Courses taken on a pass/fail basis are not factored into your GPA for SAP purposes unless your program is composed primarily or entirely of pass/fail coursework, in which case pass/fail grades count toward both the qualitative and quantitative components.

2. Pace (The Quantitative Standard)
You must pass a high enough percentage of your classes to ensure you are progressing toward graduation. You are required to successfully complete (pass) at least 67% of all credit hours you attempt. A completion ratio of 66.5% or higher counts as meeting this requirement.

Your pace is calculated by dividing your total earned credits by your total attempted credits. For example, if you attempt 12 credits but drop or fail 6, your pace is 50%, which is below the 67% requirement.

Prior academic history is considered toward degree completion. This includes:

- Transfer credits accepted toward your current program (counted as both attempted and completed hours)
- Prior semesters of enrollment at UNLV, even if you were not a financial aid recipient
- Remedial and repeated classes
- College classes taken while attending high school (Dual Enrollment Credit or equivalent), if transferred to UNLV and counted toward your degree program

Grades counted as successfully completed (satisfactory): A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, P, S, X.

Grades counted as not completed (unsatisfactory): E, F, I, N, U, W, WD, WH, WF, WP.

Audited classes (AD) are not counted within this policy. No academic credit is awarded for an audited class, and financial aid is reduced to exclude audited courses from your enrollment. Audited courses are excluded from both attempted and completed hours in the quantitative

pace and maximum timeframe calculations, as they do not constitute aid-eligible academic coursework.

3. Maximum Time Frame
Financial aid is intended to cover the credits needed for your degree. You must finish your program within a specific number of attempted credits. Per federal regulation, students fail the maximum timeframe measure at the point at which it becomes mathematically impossible to complete their program within the maximum timeframe, not at the point they actually reach the credit limit.

Program	Maximum Credit Hours
1st Baccalaureate programs	180 credit hours (150% of 120-credit standard)
Post-Baccalaureate / 2nd Baccalaureate programs	225 credit hours (180 from 1st degree + 45 additional)
Master's & Doctoral programs	Defined by the academic department and maintained by the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships. Contact your department or the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships for the published limit applicable to your program.
Certificate programs (approved by U.S. Department of Education)	Defined by the academic department and maintained by the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships. Contact your department or the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships for the published limit applicable to your program.

A student who is within 30 credit hours of exceeding their maximum time frame will receive an alert notification from the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships. Alert status does not affect current aid eligibility, but once the maximum is exceeded, the student's status will convert to Disqualified.

Multiple Degrees and Change of Major
UNLV does not limit the number of times a student may change majors for SAP purposes. Each degree program is evaluated separately for Maximum Time Frame purposes.
Whether coursework taken under a prior major counts toward the SAP evaluation of a new major is reviewed on a case-by-case basis through the SAP appeal process described in Section 7.

SECTION 4: Grade Changes

UNLV is not required to recalculate SAP between scheduled evaluation points as a result of grade changes. However, all grade changes must be accounted for in the next scheduled SAP evaluation.

The following limitations apply:

- Pell Grants and TEACH Grants: A disbursement based on a grade change may only be made during the payment period immediately following the SAP evaluation that was affected by the change.
- All other Title IV aid: A disbursement based on a grade change may only be made during the academic year in which the affected SAP evaluation took place, or, if the evaluation took place at the end of an academic year, during the immediately following academic year.
- Aid already disbursed based on an SAP evaluation that was accurate at the time it was performed should not be returned, even if grades subsequently change.

Students who receive a grade change will receive an updated SAP status after the grade change is reflected in MyUNLV.

SECTION 5: Academic Forgiveness

Academic forgiveness granted under UNLV policy is not recognized for federal or state financial aid SAP purposes. UNLV must always include courses applicable to a student's major or program, whenever taken, in evaluating SAP for both the qualitative (GPA) and quantitative (pace) components. Students who believe their circumstances warrant reconsideration may submit a SAP appeal as described in Section 7.

SECTION 6: SAP Status Levels

UNLV monitors SAP at the end of every semester (Fall, Spring, and Summer).

The following statuses may be assigned:

Financial Aid Warning: The first time you fall below the GPA or Pace requirements, you will be placed on Warning status. You may continue to receive financial aid for one more semester, but you must use that time to bring your GPA and/or Pace back up to the required levels. Warning status lasts for one payment period (semester) only.

Financial Aid Disqualification: If you do not meet the SAP requirements after your warning semester, or if you exceed your Maximum Time Frame, you will be placed on Disqualified status and will no longer be eligible for any aid programs listed in Section 1.

Financial Aid Probation: If your SAP appeal is approved, your aid will be reinstated on a Probationary basis for one semester. Probation is subject to the terms of your appeal and academic plan, as described in Section 7.

Students not meeting SAP standards will be notified using the following communication channels:

- UNLV Rebelmail account
- Student Financial Portal

SECTION 7: The Appeal Process

If you have lost your financial aid eligibility due to extenuating circumstances, such as a medical emergency, death in the family, or other significant personal hardship, you may submit a SAP

Appeal to the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships. Your ability to submit an appeal does not guarantee it will be approved.

Only a financial aid administrator has regulatory authority to determine your financial aid eligibility. No other UNLV office, department, or administrator has authority to override the appeal committee's decision. A denied appeal may not be cross-appealed to other institutional leadership units, including deans or other administrative offices.

A financial aid office has the authority to decline appeal consideration if a student has previously submitted more than one appeal.

Appeal Deadlines:

- Fall and Spring semesters: Appeals must be submitted by the 60% attendance point of the semester for which reinstatement is requested.
- Summer sessions: Appeals must be submitted by the first day of classes for the summer session for which reinstatement is requested.

Appeals received after these deadlines will still be reviewed. If a decision is not reached before the end of the semester for which reinstatement was originally requested, an approved appeal will instead result in reinstatement beginning with the next available semester.

To initiate an appeal, complete the correct academic year SAP Appeal Form available at: http://www.unlv.edu/finaid/forms

What Your Appeal Must Include:

- A clear, concise written explanation of the circumstances that prevented you from meeting SAP requirements, including a timeline of events
- Supporting documentation (e.g., medical records, obituary, official correspondence)
- An academic plan approved by your academic advisor (see Academic Plan section below)

Appeals that are incomplete, lack documentation, or are not clearly written may be denied or held pending additional information. Appeals are reviewed within approximately 2 weeks of receipt of a completed submission, though review may take up to 4 weeks during peak periods.

Academic Plan

All students whose financial aid has been disqualified must submit an academic plan for success as part of their appeal.

The following requirements apply:

- The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships will work with you to establish your academic plan as part of your appeal. You may not self-certify your own academic plan.
- The plan must establish a realistic path to returning to SAP compliance or successfully completing your program by a specified future date.
- You must meet the terms and conditions of your plan at the end of each semester the plan is in place to be considered for an additional semester of Probation.
- Deviation from your approved plan, including withdrawing from, substituting, failing, or receiving an incomplete in any planned course, will result in a return to Disqualified status at the end of the semester in which you were in Probation status.

Appeal Outcomes

Approved - Probation: Your aid is reinstated for one semester on a probationary basis. If the appeal indicates you can meet SAP standards by the end of one payment period, no academic plan is required. If more than one payment period is needed, an academic plan will be required and your progress will be reviewed at the end of each semester.

Denied: Your SAP status remains Disqualified. Appeals based on materially changed circumstances or substantial new documentation may be considered. To regain eligibility without a successful appeal, you must bring your academic record into compliance with SAP standards by paying for coursework without use of Federal Title IV funding sources until standards are met. Simply sitting out a semester does not restore SAP eligibility; academic action that brings your record into compliance is the only way to regain SAP eligibility.

Appeals Committee

SAP appeals are reviewed by a committee of financial aid counselors. Each appeal receives individualized consideration based on the circumstances and documentation provided. The committee's decision is final.

The following circumstances generally do not support approval absent compelling additional documentation:

- Lack of knowledge or understanding of SAP standards
- Medical documentation for dates that do not correspond to the semester(s) of substandard progress
- Recurring life circumstances affecting academic ability
- Failure to meet the terms of a prior approved academic plan without new extenuating circumstances
- Repetition of courses solely to increase GPA for admission to a program to which the student is not currently admitted

SECTION 8: Reestablishing Financial Aid Eligibility

If your appeal is not approved, you may reestablish eligibility by paying for coursework out of pocket until your academic record meets all three SAP standards. Once standards are met, contact the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships to request a reassessment of your eligibility.

Paying for classes without Title IV funds or sitting out for a term does not, by itself, restore SAP eligibility. Academic action that brings your record into compliance is the only way to regain SAP eligibility.

If you transfer to another institution, you may be eligible for financial aid at that school, subject to that school's SAP policy.

Student Resources

UNLV provides many campus resources to support student success. These include academic support through the Academic Success Center, the Writing Center, and the Peer Mentoring Program. A full listing of academic support services, along with other resources ranging from physical health to employment support can be found at **Student Resource Guide**.