

Elizabeth Taylor, University of Virginia



Elizabeth “Libby” Taylor is the Academic Advising Dean at the University of Virginia, a role she started in August 2024. Previously, she served as Director of Academic Success and Assistant Professor of History at Miles College, an HBCU in Birmingham, AL, where she managed multiple academic support programs. Libby also worked as the Supplemental Instruction Coordinator at Louisiana State University (LSU). She earned her BA from Auburn University in 2012, her MA in History from the University of Alabama in 2015, and her PhD in History from LSU in 2020. Her research focuses on retention of high-risk populations, student retention, academic recovery, HBCUs, and educational equity.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is a standard established by the federal government to regulate students and/or institutions that receive Title IV aid. This regulation is outlined in Section 484(a)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which mandates that all post-secondary institutions must have a SAP Policy in place. There has been little systematic research on SAP policies given that each institution sets their own policies, and there is further limited research on the populations most impacted by such policies.

The research available indicates the most vulnerable students are those most impacted by SAP, and thus it is a worthwhile endeavor to consider how post-secondary institutions vary in their policies and ways we as higher education professionals can design programs allowing for more meaningful support for students during their matriculation. As HBCUs have historically provided education to historically underserved populations, theirs is a critical place to begin such a study, to further understanding of these varying programs, and will open the door to further research on best practices as well as further quantitative data on the success of such programs in recovering students academically.

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Program Overview and Recommendations

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is a standard set forth by the federal government regulating students and/or institutions receiving Title IV aid, requiring certain quantitative and qualitative standards known as SAP. The policies are required to be as or stricter than for students who do not receive Title IV aid. This regulation falls under Section 484(a)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and stipulates all post-secondary institutions must have in place some type of SAP Policy (SAP Appeals-Finaid, n.d.). The typical maximum timeframe is listed as 150%. At minimum SAP reviews must happen at least once an academic year; students must be notified of all reviews and how this impacts them, why a student has lost aid and how they may regain aid. Remedial coursework is allowed in the counting of qualitative measurement but is not required for the quantitative portion. Optional elements to this include SAP Warnings, SAP appeals, and varying standards for undergraduate and graduate students. Post-secondary institutions have the discretion to make policies on their own, given they are reported to the federal government and supporting documentation is provided (Satisfactory Academic Progress Knowledge Center, n.d.). Due to this schools must implement SAP Policies under their own regulations, not all institutions allow students to appeal; per the manner federal guidelines are written, institutions have the right to immediately put a student on financial aid probation should they fail to meet SAP requirements (34 CFR 668.34, n.d.).

Given the federal government requires some type of progression policy but does not allow for specifics, institutions have the freedom to make such determinations themselves in terms of the quantitative and qualitative pace requirements. There have been increasing questions over the years if the process of SAP is inequitable, particularly as federal aid requirements are most likely to impact low-income students. Some states have made moves to change regulations surrounding SAP, for example in July 2021 in California report titled 'The Overlooked Obstacle-How Satisfactory Academic Progress Policies Impede Student Success and Equity'

discovered '24% of first-year California Community College students receiving a federal Pell Grant did not meet SAP standards during their first two consecutive academic terms. Black and Native American students were twice as likely as White and Asian students to not meet those standards' (Schudde, L., & Scott, J., 2021). To negate some of these financial burdens, California instituted the Cal Grant program, which has simplified the process of applying for aid and offered additional support to those who were already eligible for Pell Grant.

In research done in California it was found there were no significant differences in motivation for those who were on SAP versus those who were not (Schudde, L., & Scott, J., 2021). Further data from this study showed students more likely to not make SAP requirements were Black or African American students receiving the Pell Grant, at 34%. For those who matriculated through the foster care system, they saw a rate of failing to meet SAP requirements at 34% after their first year (Schudde, L., & Scott, J., 2021). Of those who were not meeting requirements but continued to stay enrolled, about 77% ultimately lost their Pell Grant. In a study of Pell Grant recipients in California the same study found those who met the threshold for receiving the Pell Grant were more likely not to enroll in college (Schudde, L., & Scott, J., 2021). A survey by the National Postsecondary Student Aid found 'over 50,000 Pell Grant recipients were first-year community college students' and that 'one in five (21 percent) first-year Pell Grant recipients nationally were at risk of losing their Pell due to the SAP GPA criterion alone' (Schudde, L., & Scott, J., 2021, p.16). Surveys in California further found 'among foster youth, Black, and Native American Pell Grant recipients, over one-third have been disqualified from financial aid after their first year' (Schudde, L., & Scott, J., 2021, p. 20). While there has been no such study examining nationwide SAP data, nor does this study purport to do so, this background is critical to understanding why SAP Policies and Processes at HBCUs are so critical, this is an already vulnerable and historically marginalized population, so higher education practitioners must take care in their crafting

and approach to such policies. Providing the necessary support to students who have failed to meet requirements is the start of addressing the already persistent equity gap which exists in higher education.

A policy brief from April 2023 by Higher Learning Advocates drew data from a survey of 40,000 students who ultimately did not complete their college education, the majority of which quit attending before the age of 35 and were predominately enrolled in two-year institutions (Higher Learning Advocates, 2023). 44.2% of those who had no credit and no credentials from attending college were Black, Hispanic or Native American (Higher Learning Advocates, 2023). A study completed by John Burton Advocates for Youth for students of color failed to meet SAP Requirements at twice the rate as their white peers (Higher Learning Advocates, 2023, p. 4). Two responses to this report included Indiana which began a 'SAP Reset' policy, which offered students the ability to regain access to state aid through the Adult Student Grant Workforce and Readiness Grant. It should be noted that this was a policy dealing with state aid, not federal aid. At Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio a holistic process was put into place through the combined efforts of financial aid, enrollment and academic counseling. Instead of notifying students every term, notifications were given annually in a fully online process with a 7-10-day turnaround.

A study by the Center for Applied Behavioral Science at MDRC (CABS), examined three community colleges in Minnesota to understand behavioral reasons behind low rates of college completion (Headlam, C., Marano, E., & Yu, J., 2019). In reported reasons for barriers to the SAP process, students reported not receiving information in a timely manner and being confused about the process itself. In not being aware of the requirements, this meant students may withdraw from classes with the assumption they are helping their GPA without considering ratio requirements, as this is not thought of as frequently. The study further found a sense of hopelessness amongst students who began to improve academically

but were still suspended as they failed to meet requirements, with only 12% of students appealing their suspension (citation). Up to this point there has not been a comprehensive review of SAP Programs at HBCUs, nor has there been data gathered on the students impacted by such policies. While there is research forthcoming on the student demographics, this work focuses on a comprehensive overview of SAP policies at HBCUs, examining questions of equity and ease of access for students historically underrepresented at institutions of higher education.

Equity and access of higher education has been a consistent sore point for those seeking to enroll students who are not wealthy, not white and not men. The passage of the G.I. Bill after WWII kicked off enrollment of increasing numbers of returning veterans, and the civil rights movements in the 1960s and ensuring student movements in the 1970s saw increased access to education. Despite the increased enrollment of black students, there are still disproportionately low numbers at highly elite schools in the United States. Higher education is a mechanism through which there can be 'social mobility, and wealth creation' as well as increases in 'health, civic engagement and family stability' (Le et al., 2020). Thus, the goals of higher education align with attempts to provide economic uplift and social mobility to those who have traditionally been shut out of these processes. HBCUs are a vehicle through which black students can achieve this type of mobility and have been proven successful many times over in producing civically engaged citizens and overcoming wealth gaps.



Table 1: HBCU SAP Policies

Institution	Hours	GPA	Hours	GPA	Hours	GPA	Hours	GPA	Hours	GPA	Hours	GPA
Southern College, Tougaloo College, Southern University at Nola, St. Augustin's University, Talladega College, Tuskegee University, Virginia Union University, Wilberforce University, Winston-Salem University, Bowie State University, Central State University, Clark Atlanta University, Delaware State University, University of the District of Columbia, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Florida A&M University, Florida Memorial University, Grambling State University, Hampton University, North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina Central University, Paul Quinn College, Prairie View A&M, Harris-Stowe University, J.F. Drake State Technical College, Jackson State University, Kentucky State University, Eastern Shore Maryland, Morgan State, Paul Quinn College, Morris Brown College	0	2										
Shelton State Community College, H. Council Trenholm State Community College	1-21	1.5 and 58%	22-32	1.75 and 62%	33+	2 and 57%						
Mississippi Valley State University, Southern University and A&M College	1-29	1.51	30-59	1.75	60+	2						

Lane College, Shaw University and Rust College	1-29	1.5	30-59	1.85	60+	2						
Hinds Community College at Utica and Virginia State University	1-29	1.5	30+	2								
West Virginia University and Wiley University	1-59	1.75	60+	2								
Alabama A&M	1-24	1.5	25-44	1.75	45+	2						
Alabama State University	1-31	1.6	32-62	1.8	63+	2						
Albany State University	1-15	1.3	16-29	1.55	30-45	1.75	46-59	1.9	60+	2		
Allen University	1-30	1.5	31-60	1.75	61-90	1.8	91+	2				
Arkansas at Pine Bluff	1-29	1.5	30-59	1.75	60+	2						
Arkansas Baptist College	1-29	1.5	30-59	1.75	60+	2						
Benedict College	1-15	1.75	16-29	1.8	30-45	1.9	46+	2				
Bennett College												
Bluefield State College	1-57	1.75	58+	2								
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania	1-24	1.5	25-36	1.6	37-48	1.75	49-59		60+	2		
Clinton College	1-15	1	16-27	1.26	28-39	1.51	40-51		52+	2		
Coahoma Community College	1-16	1.5	17-32	1.7	33-48	1.85	48+	2				
Coppin State University	1-29	1.75	30-59	1.9	60+	2						
Denmark Technical College	1-35	1.5	35-60	1.8	51+	2						
Dillard University	1-29	1.5	30-60	1.75	61+	2						
Edward Waters University	1-29	1.75	30+	2								
Fisk University	1-24	1.8	25-36	1.9	37+	2						
Howard University	0	2										
Huston-Tillotson University	1-24	1.8	24	2								
Jarvis Christian University	1-30	1.5	31-60	1.75	61+	2						

Johnson C. Smith University		1.7	30-59	1.9	60+	2						
Langston University		1.7	30+	2								
Livingstone College		1.6	26-57	1.8	58+	2						
Miles College		1.6	30-59	1.8	60+	2						
Morehouse College		1.8	30+	2								
Norfolk State University		1.7	30-59	1.8	60+	2						
Oakwood University		1.7	25+	2								
Paine College		1.7	28-59	1.8	60+	2						
South Carolina State University		1.4	40-59	1.6	60-99	1.9	100+	2				
Southern University at Shreveport		1.5 & 50%	26-45	1.75 & 67%	46+	2 & 67%						
Spelman College		1.8	Second Year +	2								
Stillman College		1.6	31-61	1.8	62+	2						
Tennessee State University		1.5	16-30	1.7	31-45	1.8	46-59	1.9	60+	2		
Texas College		1.5	16-30	1.7	31-45	1.9	46+	2				
The Lincoln University		1.5	31-59	1.75	60+	2						
University of the Virgin Islands		N/A	12-29	1.7 & 50%	30-44	1.8 % 60%	45+	2 and 67%				
Virginia University of Lynchburg		1	19-36	1.6	37-54	1.7	55-72	1.8	73-90	1.9	90+	2
Voorhees University		1.55	30-59	1.75	60-89	1.95	90+	2				
Xavier University of Louisiana		1.7	30-60	1.8	61+	2						

The majority of HBCUs used the max credit hours as 150 with a ratio of 67%; those who deviated from this norm are listed below; there were several colleges that also had a combination of ratio and GPA requirements that varied, some of which are listed in the table above.

Table 2: HBCU SAP Ratio Policies

Institution	Max Credit Hours	Ratio
Florida Memorial University	150	50%
Benedict College	150	66%
Alabama A&M	192	67%
Fisk University	120	75%
Arkansas Baptist College	124	67%
Howard University and Philander Smith College	150	70%
Huston-Tillotson University, Tuskegee University, Spelman College	150	75%
Jackson State University	150	80%
Alabama State University, Arkansas at Pine Bluff	180	67%

Individual Programmatic Components

Alabama A&M University

Students may appeal if they have lost financial aid under the following circumstances: 'undue hardship because of extenuating circumstances', and documentation must be provided. Approved students are told to make a success plan which includes attending success seminars and complete a self-assessment plan and are encouraged to utilize academic support services such as tutoring and supplemental instruction.

- » [Academic Support & Retention](#)
- » [Academic Recovery Program](#)

Alabama State University

Before officially having financial aid revoked, students are put on SAP warning and/or financial aid warning and are then assigned

an advisor at the Academic Center for Educational Success (ACSE). Those who submit an appeal and have it approved are put on probation, during which time they must have a 'minimum of 2.0 and complete 100% of classes attempted in a semester, have to meet conditions of academic improvement plan assigned by ACES advisor'. The appeal must have official documentation, and students are only allowed to appeal twice. Students are allowed to change their major one time and up to 30 hours of original major courses will be accepted; they can also exempt up to 30 hours of remedial courses from the calculation of their pace progress.

- » [Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Albany State University

Students cannot receive any type of financial aid for taking more than 30 hours of remedial coursework, anything past this they must pay for out of pocket regardless of appeal status. For repeated

courses, only the highest-grade attempt is considered within SAP calculations. Students are automatically put on warning if they are not meeting requirements, they have one semester of warning before they then must submit an appeal. All appeals submitted must include what extenuating circumstances led to the student not making satisfactory progress, if the appeal is approved the student is then on a probationary status, however if they do not meet the conditions of their academic plan the appeal 'will be rescinded and financial aid eligibility suspended'.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Process Instructions](#)

Alcorn State University

SAP is reviewed once a year, at the end of the spring semester. Students who do not meet the standards put on 'financial aid suspension', if they have appealed then they are on 'financial aid probation'. In the appeal process the student must provide a personal statement outlining extenuating circumstances, provide documentation and put together an academic plan. This is then reviewed by a financial aid committee.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards](#)

Allen University

The appeals process consists of an online application which explains extenuating circumstances, an academic plan, explanation of hours accumulated, degree audit and supporting documentation providing evidence of extenuating circumstances. Appeals submitted without documentation are automatically denied by the Admission Committee, which is overseen by the Dean of Enrollment Management. Students are not allowed to reappeal decisions, and if their appeal is approved this is then sent to the office of financial aid.

- » [Standards for Undergraduate Students](#)
- » [150% Rule](#)
- » [How to Re-gain Eligibility](#)

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

The appeal form is found online and has a list of what constitutes an extenuating circumstance, students are required to write an academic plan on how they will improve including creating a course outline. In financial aid warning students are allowed to receive one additional semester, if the student fails to meet standards after warning, then their financial aid will be terminated. Progress towards requirements is reviewed at the end of every semester.

- » [Office of Student Financial Services](#)
- » [Financial Aid Forms](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form](#)

Arkansas Baptist College

SAP progress is reviewed at the end of each semester, and transfer credits are included when considering a student's SAP progress. A student will be given a warning the first time they have not met standards and, can do up to two semesters of warnings; however, they must have an appeal submitted to receive financial aid. All appeals are submitted to the academic advisor within the department of retention. A student who was on warning who had not sent in appeal will automatically have aid suspended. If the appeal is approved students will be put on probation, must take a reduced course load and must enroll in specific courses. If it is not possible for a student to meet SAP progress after one semester their appeal must contain an academic plan which is developed in conjunction with the Office of Retention and must also be submitted to the Academic Affairs Appeals Committee. All appeals are filled out via form and require documentation.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Benedict College

Appeals letters must be typed and not be more than two pages and answer a series of questions in which students put forth an academic plan and discuss how any circumstances preventing their academic success have been addressed.

- » [Academic Recovery and Probation Management](#)

Bennett College

Those who do not meet SAP are on warning for one semester, if they are not meeting the requirements at the end of the semester, they are not allowed to receive financial aid. Should a student wish to appeal their plan must be accepted by the Academic Advising unit. The Financial Aid Appeal Form must be submitted along with other documents outlining mitigating circumstances which prevented the student from being academically successful. Appeals are then reviewed by the Financial Aid Committee, if an appeal is denied the student may appeal directly in person before the committee. There are also examples of what constitutes mitigating circumstances as well as suggested documentation on the website for students' reference. SAP is evaluated at the end of every semester, and students may only appeal one time during the academic year.

» [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)



Bethune-Cook University

Dual enrollment credits are counted towards SAP progress, and a student who is transferring in will also have their transcript considered towards their SAP status. SAP is re-calculated each semester, if the student is not making progress, they must set up a payment plan or their registration will be cancelled, and they may not sign up for tuition deferment.

» [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)

Bishop State Community College

SAP progress is calculated at the end of each semester. If a student does not meet these requirements they will be on warning for a semester, if they do not meet the SAP standards at the end of the semester, they will then be ineligible for financial aid. There is a policy for academic bankruptcy, but these are further calculated in the GPA, pace and maximum time frame calculations for the purposes of SAP progress. Other factors considered are repeated coursework, incomplete grades, withdrawal, remedial courses, and transfer credits, although transfer credits are not factored into the GPA calculation. If a student has a grade change, SAP will then be recalculated at the request of the student. A student may submit an appeal to the Financial Aids Appeals committee, and all decisions made by this committee are final.

» [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal 1](#)

» [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal 2](#)

Bluefield State College

Students may appeal their SAP status and work to develop an academic plan which includes a set time frame in which they will meet SAP standards. This appeal is sent to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee and must include documentation of hardships faced by the students which negatively impacted their ability to meet SAP requirements. A student may submit up to three appeals, and those who have an approved appeal might have an academic plan. Those who do not have an academic plan may be allowed to continue the next semester on a probationary period, those who did have a plan and did not meet the requirements in the plan will be ineligible for student aid.

» [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)

Bowie State University

The Office of Financial Aid and Financial Literacy Coordinator offer workshops remotely throughout the year. SAP is calculated at the beginning of each award year. Remedial courses are counted

towards GPA calculations but not towards completion ratio, the limit for financial aid eligibility for such courses is 24 hours maximum. A student not meeting requirements is put on 'Not Meet' status, should a student not meet requirements they may pay out of pocket or submit an appeal. Appeals are submitted to the Financial Aid Committee, who may request an academic plan concerning how the student plans to regain their eligibility.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals](#)

Central State University

Students who wish to appeal their SAP status may do so by submitting an appeal via email to the Registrar's Office, who then shares the information with the Office of Financial Aid who will review the appeal. All appeals have to be filed with the student's academic advisor 60 days before the start of the new semester, and the Committee has to receive the appeal 30 days before the beginning of the semester the students want to have their aid reinstated.

- » [Appeal to The Academic Standards Committee](#)
- » [Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania

If a student is academically dismissed from the University their aid is automatically cancelled upon the semester they return. The University does not consider courses from other institutions in the GPA calculations unless they are done through the Visiting Student Program. SAP progress is evaluated at the end of the spring, summer and fall semesters. A financial aid warning is issued for those not meeting requirements, and students cannot have more than two warnings during their matriculation. Students do not have to file an appeal to receive financial aid if they are in their warning period. Students on warning and probation are required to go to the Academic Success Center and work with Academic

Navigators, who will help the student create an Academic Success Plan, which would then be filed with their appeal. In the appeal there must be mention of some type of extenuating circumstances and have accompanying documentation. Students may submit an appeal if they have not met the maximum time frame standards, in the appeal they must have the SAP appeal form and an approved academic plan. Students will then be reviewed at the end of every semester to track their progress. If the student decides to leave the university and then return, they must apply for readmission and their SAP status will stay the same unless they attend another college in which they gained more credits. If a student has any grade changes, they must inform the financial aid office directly so that their SAP status can be reconfigured. Audited courses do not count towards total credits but courses that were taken for no grade are counted towards attempted credit. Remedial coursework is also counted, and students cannot receive financial aid for more than 30 hours of such coursework. If a student repeats a course, they cannot take it more than three times; a course which was passed can only be taken one time.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal](#)

Clafin University

SAP progress is evaluated at the end of each semester, appeals are submitted to the Office of Financial Aid and then reviewed by the SAP committee. The appeal must contain extenuating circumstances and if the appeal is approved aid is reinstated for a probationary period, if the appeal is denied students may continue to attend, but no financial aid will be provided.

- » [Financial Aid Appeal Form for Satisfactory Progress](#)
- » [Financial Aid Disbursement Process](#)

Clark Atlanta University

The Financial Aid Office reviews students SAP standing once a year during the Spring. Those not meeting SAP can appeal in writing

to the Financial Aid Office, the letter must include mention of extenuating circumstances along with documentation, and how these circumstances will be addressed so as not to disrupt the students academic progress in the future. They must also submit an Academic Plan of how they plan to recover their academics into a place of good standing. Those who have their appeal approved will have aid for one semester, at the end of the semester another review will happen to see if the student is meeting the term of the appeal by following their Academic Plan. If they are following this Plan they will be given aid for another semester, if they are not then they will lose financial aid and will not be able to receive any until they re-establish good academic standing on their own.

- » [Student Academic Progress Planning Form](#)

Clinton College

Attempted hours are described as 'Pursuit of Program', which does include transfer credit, those who do not meet standards can apply for a waiver in which they must supply documentation showing proof of extenuating circumstances. They are only allowed one waiver, if a student does not have an approved waiver, they may still attend but will not be rewarded financial aid.

- » [Financial Aid Requirements 1](#)
- » [Financial Aid Requirements 2](#)

Coahoma Community College

Loss of financial aid is considered a SAP suspension and students may submit a SAP appeal form with documentation. If a student fails to submit accompanying documentation the appeal is automatically denied. Students are only allowed to have three SAP appeals on file when attending. The website lists tips for how to write a successful appeal, and suggested documentation.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Process](#)
- » [SAP Appeal Process](#)

Coppin State University

If a student fails to meet requirements, they are on SAP suspension, if they have submitted an appeal which has been approved, they are on a one-term probation. The appeal should include a personal statement, documentation supporting the statement, and an academic plan which includes how you will get back on track. Students cannot regain eligibility if they had an appeal denied for maximum timeline extension, eligibility is also not reinstated if the student leaves for a period.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Quantitative Requirements](#)

Delaware State University

Submitted appeals must provide extenuating circumstances, proof of such circumstances, and a detailed academic success plan. Difficult coursework or lack of knowledge of support services are not considered extenuating circumstances. The SAP Committee then approves or denies appeals, those who have appeals approved are put on 'Probation' or 'Academic Plan' but there are certain requirements pertaining to these statuses. A probation status means a student will have financial aid for one semester, if they meet SAP requirements at the end of this term they will then be reconsidered for financial aid for the next semester. If a student is approved under the 'Academic Success Plan' conditions they must follow their agreed upon academic plan, which would include meeting with their academic advisor and signing a Financial Aid 'Academic Support' contract before aid is reinstated. Students may submit another appeal if they do not meet SAP requirements at the end of a 'Probation' or 'Academic Plan' semester. The Academic Plan is reviewed at the end of every semester by advisors in the Office of Student Success, who then provide a report to the Office of Financial Aid with those who did or did not follow their plans.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Financial Aid Forms](#)

Denmark Technical College

The Financial Aid Office reviews SAP progress at the end of each semester of enrollment, those who are not meeting these requirements are put on Academic Probation I. If the student has not made proper SAP progress by the end of this period, they are put on Probation 2. Those who still do not meet requirements after this semester are suspended from college for one semester. Students on probation must complete a 'Program Course Plan Form' with their academic advisor as well as enroll in a College Orientation 101 course.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)

Dillard University

A student who wishes to submit an appeal will submit it to the University Admissions Review Committee, which meets at the end of each semester. The pace of notifications for students failing to meet SAP is as follows: Warning, Probation, Suspension and Dismissal. A warning is only issued once if a student fails to meet SAP, if this continues students are then on probation, and after two consecutive or non-consecutive semesters of this they are then on suspension for a semester. Students who have enrolled for the first time in the fall or spring will receive an 'Early Warning' letter and will be required to complete a 6-week 'Student Success Program' held by the Academic Center for Excellence. Students who have been suspended or submitted cannot submit an appeal towards their status, they can submit for readmission. An appeal must include two letters of recommendation from major professions and a letter from the academic dean.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

University of the District of Columbia

SAP status is reviewed at the end of every semester, any student put on suspension cannot receive financial aid. Those who are on

financial aid warning at the end of their second semester are put on suspension if they did not maintain the minimum GPA, pace requirements, or attempted versus completed hours. Students who submit an appeal have a one-term probation, to return to good standing they must meet academic standards, if they do not, they are put on suspension and cannot reappeal. The appeal form is linked on the website and must include a personal statement explaining extenuating circumstances, supporting documentation and an academic and success strategies plan.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)

Edward Waters University

Students' academic progress is reviewed once a year during the spring semester. Students in their first 1-29 hours who have not met the GPA requirement will be put on financial aid suspension. Students may send an appeal to the Office of Financial Aid, which if granted will put them on probationary status. There must be explanation of a circumstance which led to failure to meet SAP requirements along with documentation, and an Academic Plan created in conjunction with the student's academic advisor.

- » [Understanding Your Financial Aid](#)
- [Elizabeth City State University](#)

Students wanting to appeal their status should they not be meeting SAP requirements are asked to provide supporting documentation related to one of the following circumstances: personal or family illness or injury, death of a close family member, victim of crime, job related or other issues. In certain circumstances, students will also be required to submit an academic plan, if the request is granted, the student is on financial aid probation for at least one semester. During this semester they are expected to meet the standards. A student can be on three semesters of probation total, during this time they would have an academic plan which they are to follow, focused on ensuring they meet academic requirements. If they meet standards they are no longer on probation, if they fail then they are ineligible for financial aid until they meet requirements.

Students cannot appeal decisions, all decisions made by the SAP Appeals Committee are final.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Financial Aid & Scholarships](#)

Fayetteville State University

If a student wants to appeal a SAP hold they must provide documentation and proof of extenuating circumstances, as well as what they plan to do in order to address such circumstances. The events mentioned must correlate with the semester in which there was poor academic performance. These appeals must be submitted every semester if standards are not met. The appeal committee reviews appeals and renders decision within 15 days from date of submission, late appeals are decided upon on a case-by-case basis. During this process students must meet with their advisor to complete an Academic Success Plan, should they fail to do so they will not be awarded aid. If an appeal is denied a student can only re-appeal if they have new information related to extenuating circumstances impacting their academic performance. A SAP Hold will not stop students from registering, but they will not be able to receive financial aid unless they successfully appeal, if they are approved they are then on SAP Probation. If they do not meet the requirements their financial aid will be rescinded. Basic requirements to meet include passing all classes, take courses as related to major, avoid withdrawing, earn 2.0 or higher GPA.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Fisk University

A student may be dismissed by the Committee on Standards and Degrees or the Provost if they do not meet requirements after three semesters which take place in the following order: low academic performance, Academic Warning and Academic Probation. Students may write a request to the provost within 10 days of a student receiving the letter on dismissal, however reversal of the appeal is only allowed in the following circumstances: illness, personal or

family hardship, and management of such conditions so they will not impede future academic progress.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)
- » [Financial Aid Institutional Policies](#)

Florida A&M University

Office of Financial Aid sends letters to students who are on financial aid probation or who no longer have financial aid. If a student wishes to appeal, they must send a letter to the SAP Appeals Committee outlining circumstances related to their failure to meet academic standards as well as documentation. Circumstances which will not result in a successful appeal are issue with an instructor or staff, immaturity, and not understanding university rules. A student can submit a total of two letters during their time at the University, only rarely is a third appeal allowed and their must be unique and new documented circumstances to warrant such an exception. At the end of the semester a student is reviewed and if they are not meeting SAP requirements they will be back in good academic standing, if they are not but they are meeting the requirements of their academic plan, they will continue to be on probationary status. If they have not met the requirements or the action plan their financial aid will be suspended.

- » [Guidelines for Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Florida Memorial University

A student not meeting SAP requirements can submit an appeal form to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships which must include a typed letter and any necessary documents pertaining to mitigating circumstances. This is then reviewed by the SAP Appeals Committee who will notify the student. If they have their appeal approved, they must submit an academic plan to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, which will then be reviewed, and if it meets the required criteria then the student will have their financial aid reinstated.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Grambling State University

Students not meeting SAP requirements can submit an appeal with documentation of extenuating circumstances to the Appeals Committee. If a student is found forging documents related to their appeal they are reported to the Department of Education, Office of the Inspector General and Grambling State University's Department of Judicial Affairs. If there is need for an urgent review the chairperson of the appeals committee or Director of Student Financial Aid can approve or deny appeals. Those who have appeals approved are then on Financial Aid Probations and are required to follow certain requirements that are set and monitored by the Appeals Committee. Those who meet these requirements will be marked as 'Meets SAP' at the end of the enrollment period. Those who do not will move from probation to suspension.

- » [Financial Aid Policies for Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)



H. Council Trenholm State Community College

SAP progress is evaluated at the end of every semester of enrollment, those not meeting requirements will be given a semester of Financial Aid Warning, during which they will be expected to begin

meeting SAP standards. If a student fails to do so they will then be put on Financial Aid Suspension, they may send an appeal to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. The appeal must contain mention and documentation of extenuating circumstances, if the appeal is approved the student is then on Financial Aid Probation.

- » [Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Financial Aid Appeal Form](#)

Hampton University

Students not meeting SAP requirements are put on SAP Warning, if they meet requirements at the end of the semester eligibility is reinstated or suspended. Those on SAP probation are those who had an appeal approved, and progress is reviewed at the end of the first payment period, if student is meeting requirements, they regain financial aid, if not their aid is suspended. A student will be reinstated if they begin meeting all requirements. All reviews of SAP progress are done once a year at the end of the spring semester. Those who have appeals granted receive aid for their next semester of attendance but are reviewed at the end of the semester to see if they may continue to receive aid. If it is the end of a student's first semester and they are not meeting SAP requirements they are sent a Financial Aid Warning Notice. Appeals must contain evidence of mitigating circumstances impacting a student's ability to succeed academically, and students have 14 days from the notice to submit these documents. All appeals are final, and students cannot re-appeal. If a student has an appeal denied they may still attend but they must pay out of pocket.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Harris Stowe State University

Students can appeal against the suspension of their financial aid, but there must be mention of extenuating circumstances, and the appeal must address what has changed which will allow them to now meet these standards. While not required, students are encouraged

to use the Academic Resource Center and writing tutors during the process of writing their appeal.

- » [Financial Assistance: Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Hinds Community College

Those not meeting SAP requirements are put on financial aid warning the following semester and can continue to receive financial aid, if they continue to not meet requirements, they will be put on financial aid suspension and cannot receive aid. Students may submit an appeal, but there must be extenuating circumstances and students must provide proof of such circumstances. The appeals are done via Workday, and students are notified of their status via the Navigator student portal. All appeals must be submitted 7 days before the end of the add/drop period. Students may submit appeals to be reconsidered if they have changed their major.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Financial Aid FAQs](#)

Howard University

The SAP Appeal Form is available to students during the Virtual SAP Workshop and is not openly available on the website. The appeal must contain a personal statement on why a student did not meet the requirements as well as documentation of proof of these circumstances. All appeals are reviewed, and decisions rendered within 14 days from date of submission. All decisions made by the committee are final, if a student has their appeal denied they must pay for their tuition out of pocket. Those who are approved must complete an Academic Plan with their advisor, which must be sent in within two weeks that students receive approval. If it is not submitted, the approval will be reversed. If an appeal is granted a student is then on Probationary Status and must meet SAP requirements by the end of the term for which the appeal was granted, and these are reviewed at the end of every semester. Should a student not meet requirements they cannot reapply for consideration until the next award year. If a student has been

academically suspended, they must complete this process through the Office of Admission, which is a separate appeals process.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [SAP Appeal Review](#)

Huston-Tillotson University

SAP reviews happen at the end of each semester, those who are not meeting requirements will receive a probation letter from the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. If a student is not meeting the requirements their aid will be suspended, although they do have the option to appeal. A student must then send in an appeal letter stating the extenuating circumstances which impacted on their progress and what steps they will take to rectify their grades. Appeals are reviewed by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee, and the appeal must include documentation. If the appeal is approved the student stays on Financial Aid Probation if they meet their academic plan and/or when they start meeting SAP requirements. A student who had their appeal denied can become eligible for aid by meeting SAP requirements.

- » [Policies and Procedures](#)

J.F. Drake State Technical College

Students can send in a written appeal if they are not meeting SAP requirements, must be based off extenuating circumstances and the letter must address what will change if their aid is granted. If the student has their appeal approved, they are on probation for one payment period and are to meet standards or if they are meeting the requirements of an academic plan. The review process is done once a semester at the end of spring, and all appeals are reviewed by the Financial Aid Committee.

- » [Financial Aid Policies & Procedures Manual](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Jackson State University

A student may submit an appeal that explains mitigating circumstances, also must contain documentation of such circumstances. These are then submitted to the Financial Aid office who review the appeals, any incomplete appeals are automatically denied. Students are given their decision within 7-10 days of submitting their appeal, and all decisions are final.

- » [Standards For Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Standards For Satisfactory Academic Progress Undergraduate Policy](#)

Jarvis Christian University

Students not meeting SAP requirements will be put on financial aid probation, they may appeal their status through submitting a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Request to the Appeals Committee. The appeal must contain mention and documentation of extenuating circumstances, and all decisions made by the committee are final. If a student has their appeal approved, they will have to meet the requirements of their Academic Plan, which outline the timeline in which the student will return to good academic standing, those who fail to do so will be put on suspension and will not be able to receive any more funding.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Request](#)

Johnson C. Smith University

A student not meeting requirements will automatically have their aid suspended, if they start meeting requirements, they need to inform the Office of Student Financial Aid to reinstate their aid. Students can submit appeals if there have been mitigating circumstances, student also needs to submit supporting documentation. If the appeal is approved, students will be put on Probation or Academic Success Plan. Probation is if a student can meet SAP requirements at the end of the evaluation period. Academic Success Plan is if the student could not meet the requirements by the next evaluation period, the plan sets up a timeline for the student to work towards

meeting these requirements. Should an appeal be denied a student will have to pay out of pocket until they begin meeting requirements.

- » [Financial Aid Policies](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Academic](#)

Kentucky State University

If a student does not meet SAP requirements, they have a warning semester in which they will receive financial aid. At the end of the semester if they are meeting standards, they will continue to receive aid, if not they will be put on SAP suspension. There is a policy of Academic Bankruptcy which removed the cumulative GPA but not the attempted hours. Students may submit appeals upon learning they are not meeting requirements, all decisions made by the SAP Committee are final. The letter must outline extenuating circumstances leading to failure to meet SAP standards as well as documentation.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Academic Standing](#)

Lane College

SAP is reviewed every year during the Spring term, those who do not meet standards will be put on Financial Aid Suspension. Students may submit an appeal to the SAP Appeal Committee if there are extenuating circumstances, this form will be sent to the Office of Financial Aid and must contain supporting documentation. If the appeal is approved, a student has one semester of Financial Aid Probation, and the student will have to create an Academic Recovery Plan. These are reviewed at the end of each semester, and the student must be meeting SAP requirements or meeting their Academic Recovery Plan. Students may re-appeal should there be a new set of extenuating circumstances. If a student does start meeting SAP requirements again, they have to inform the Office of Financial Aid.

- » [Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)

Langston University

SAP Progress is reviewed at the end of each semester, those who are not meeting requirements will be put on Financial Aid warning. If they do not meet criteria by the end of the warning semester their aid will be suspended until they once again meet requirements. Students may submit an appeal to the Financial Aid Appeals committee, there must be proof and documentation of extenuating circumstances as to why the student did not meet requirements, including a 'Plan of Study' created in conjunction with their Academic Advisors. All decisions made are final, if a student has their appeal approved, they are put on Financial Aid Probation and will have to complete and follow an Academic Plan.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)
- » [Guidelines for Writing an Appeal for Financial Aid Suspension](#)

Lawson State Community College

SAP is monitored during all periods of enrollment, if a student has their aid suspended, they may appeal to the Director of Student Financial Services and Financial Aid Appeals Committee. There are deadlines posted for each semester listing requirements as well as due dates.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Livingstone College

A student not meeting SAP requirements who wishes to appeal may send in an appeal form which should contain a typed letter containing what the extenuating circumstances were that prevented the student from meeting requirements, along with an action plan of how these will not impact the student in the future. There must also be documentation of such circumstances attached. The student must also have a completed degree evaluation signed by their academic advisor, all of which is to be submitted to the Office of Financial Aid for review.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal For Financial Aid](#)
- » [Academic Affairs Policies and Procedures Manual](#)

Lincoln University

Students not meeting SAP requirements cannot receive financial aid during regular semesters or summer school, students are notified of their status by the Office of Financial Aid at the end of spring semester. Students may submit an appeal, which should be send in writing to the Admissions, Academic Standing and Financial Aid Committee. There should be mention of what extenuating circumstances led to the student not meeting requirements, and the student will be told by the University Registrar if they appeal was accepted or denied. The appeal form also must have supporting documents and an Academic Action Plan, including how the circumstances have changed and what the student will be doing to improve their academics.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Those not meeting SAP will be put on warning, at the end of this warning period if the student is still not meeting requirements their aid will be suspended for the next semester. Those on financial aid warning are encouraged to seek additional counseling as well as meet with financial aid counselors. Students may submit an appeal which must provide documentation of extenuating circumstances. They must also have a personal statement along with an approved academic improvement plan, all sent in within 10 days of the notice of the suspension of their aid. Students who are dismissed for academic or disciplinary reasons will automatically lose their financial aid.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Miles College

SAP status is reviewed once a year at the end of each spring semester, those not meeting progress standards are put on financial aid suspension and cannot receive aid. If a student has been suspended, when they return, they must pay out of pocket until they regain eligibility, there is no process through which to appeal suspension.

To appeal students must complete an appeal form and submit it to the SAP coordinator which has documentation of extenuating circumstances. They must also submit a signed Academic Plan of Action from their advisor. If an appeal is approved, they have to sign a SAP Action Plan with the Academic Recovery Director, they are then reviewed at the end of every semester. Those who do not meet these conditions are not eligible for aid in the next semester and cannot resubmit another appeal. All decisions are made by the College's Financial Aid Appeals Committee. If an appeal is denied the student may enroll in classes but they must pay out of pocket to do so.

» [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Mississippi Valley State University

Students not meeting SAP requirements can appeal with documented proof of mitigating circumstances, all materials submitted to the Office of Financial Aid. The deadline for submission is before the first day of class, submission without documentation is considered incomplete and will not be considered by the Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee. All decisions made by the Committee are final and cannot be re-appealed. Examples of mitigating circumstances include but are not limited to medical problems, accident/injury, death of family member, military service, domestic violence, homelessness, etc. If the appeal is approved the student must create an Academic Plan with their Academic Advisor.

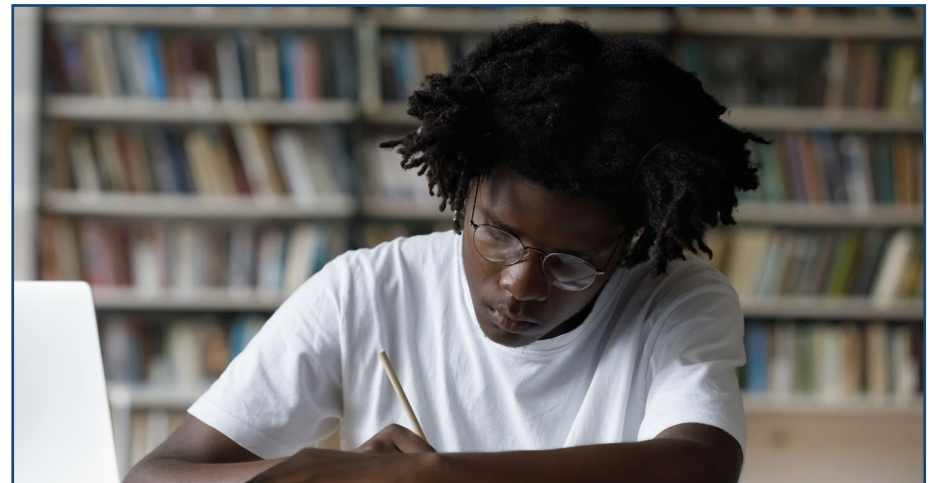
» [Standard of Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Morehouse College

When students fail to meet SAP, they are given a warning period. If they are still not meeting requirements after this warning period, they can submit an appeal which has mention of mitigating circumstances as well as documentation. Those who have an appeal approved are put on Financial Aid probation and must work with their advisor to put together a plan that addresses SAP qualitative and quantitative standards and how they plan to meet these. Those

on Financial Aid probation must follow the plan outlined in the academic assessment put together by their advisor. They are then reviewed at the end of each semester, including summer.

» [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
 » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)



Morgan State University

Students not meeting SAP requirements can submit an appeal and supporting documentation to the Office of Financial Aid, where it is then reviewed by members of the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. If an appeal is denied students can submit an appeal directly to the Director of Financial Aid, which if approved, the student is given a written agreement to sign and follow. If the student fails to do so at the end of the semester, they will not be able to receive aid in the future. Students also have the option to participate in the Academic Plan for Success Program in which they meet with an appointed individual and create an academic plan and submit this to the Office of Financial Aid. Students are given four semesters to show they are making meaningful academic progress, if they fail to do so they are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Students can appeal against the denial of financial aid by submitting an Unusual

Enrollment History Appeal Form, which is then reviewed by the Office of Financial Aid.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Financial Aid Policy](#)

Morris Brown College

Those not meeting SAP requirements will be put into one of two categories: Financial Aid Probation or Financial Aid Suspension. Those on probation have sent in an appeal and had it approved, they are able to receive funds for one semester and after that they must be meeting SAP standards or set up a plan. Financial Aid Suspension is for those who did not have their appeal approved or someone who was on Financial Aid Probation and did not meet SAP requirements or the requirements of their academic plan. Appeals must contain explanation and documentation of circumstances leading to failure to meet requirements, and email this to the Director of Financial Aid, where it will then be reviewed by the Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee. All decisions made by the Committee are final, if the appeal is approved a student will be put on Financial Aid Probation/PLAN and must meet listed requirements at the end of every semester.

- » [Morris Brown College 2023-2024 Catalog](#)

Norfolk State University

Students may submit an appeal should they fail to meet SAP requirements, the appeal must contain a signed SAP Appeal Application which should have mention and documentation of extenuating circumstances, SAP Academic Plan signed by student and academic advisor, and their transcript. All SAP Appeals and documentation are sent to the SWAP Appeal Committee Chair in the Financial Aid Office.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Undergraduate Financial Aid Academic Plan for Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

North Carolina A&T State University

Students not meeting SAP can appeal; to do so they must complete the SAP appeal form and send it to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. This must include extenuating circumstances preventing them from meeting these requirements, documentation, and how these circumstances have changed. They must then complete and pass 70% financial literacy modules. They must also submit a signed Academic Plan of Action in consultation with their Academic Advisor. Students are told of all decisions within 14 days, if appeal is approved, they are put on probation and have to sign a SAP Action Plan with the Office of Financial Aid before aid is distributed. Those who do not meet requirements by the end of the semester will not be eligible for aid the next semester although they can submit another appeal. Appeals are reviewed by the Office and Financial Aid and Scholarships by in-house committee, if appeal is denied it will be reviewed by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. At certain times appeals may be reviewed by the University Financial Aid Appeal Committee. If an appeal is not approved students will have to regain eligibility on their own and pay out of pocket.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress For Federal Financial Aid](#)
- » [Academic Expectations](#)

North Carolina Central University

SAP progress is reviewed once a year at the end of spring semester, students are notified of their status by the Scholarships and Student Aid Office. Students may send appeals if their academic progress was disrupted by something outside of their control. A student meeting requirement is listed as 'Satisfactory Status Code 1'. The status is 'Probation Code 2', this is for those who have filed an appeal and have had it approved and have created a Financial Aid Progression Plan. There is also 'Second Review Code 2D' in which students filed appeal and progression plan but appeal was denied, if a student requests a second review and the appeal is approved, they are in this category. Those who are categorized as 'Non-Compliant Code 4P' are those who did not complete their Financial Aid Progression

Plan and are not able to get financial aid for the next semester, they can file a new appeal. Those on 'Academic Dismissal Code 4A' are those who are not meeting standards and cannot receive financial assistance for the next enrollment period. Those on 'Denial Code 4D' are those who have submitted a SAP appeal and progression plan but had their appeal denied, to regain eligibility they must show academic progression.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form](#)

Oakwood University

The Financial Aid Office reviews SAP progress once a year at the end of the spring semester. Those not meeting requirements are flagged as being on Financial Aid Suspension; there is no warning period for students not meeting requirements. Students may submit an appeal if there are extenuating circumstances that impacted their academic progression; they must also provide documentation. If an appeal is approved for one semester it is flagged as 'probation' and the student will get aid for one semester, after this they must be making progression at the end of the semester. They may have aid reinstated for an additional semester if they submit an Academic Plan. This Academic Plan must be approved by their academic advisor as well as by a staff member by the Center for Student Success. IF they do not meet the requirements in their plan, they will not be eligible for future financial aid. Those who have appeal approved to complete at least six in office academic counseling services as well as maintain a 2.0 GPA.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Paine College

Students not meeting SAP requirements who have had their aid suspended may send in a SAP Appeal, this must describe what took place that caused the student to not meet requirements and what changes have been made which will allow for a better academic performance. The documentation must also include supporting documents and be sent into the Financial Aid Office during the

appropriate deadline for each semester.

- » [Financial Aid Forms](#)

Paul Quinn College

SAP reports are run once a semester, those who do not meet such requirements will incur a financial aid warning, during which time no appeal is necessary. If a student does not meet SAP by the next semester, they will be on financial aid suspension, at which point they can then appeal to have their aid reinstated. A student may appeal their SAP status if they have documentation of extenuating circumstances which impacted their ability to meet SAP requirements, all appeals must be sent to the Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships. The student must also submit an academic plan which outlines how they plan to meet SAP requirements. If a student is in their first year at the College, they will be put on warning for one semester. A student cannot receive two consecutive warnings but can receive more than one during their time of enrollment.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Philander Smith College

The Office of Financial Aid reviews students SAP once a year at the end of the spring semester. A student not meeting SAP requirements may send in an appeal form which must contain documentation as well as a degree audit for those who have earned 60+ hours. SAP Probation is for those who have had their appeal approved, they will then have one semester to be back in good academic standing, during this time they will have to meet with an ICC Academic Retention Counselor twice a month, meet with their Academic Advisor, and follow their academic plan. If a student fails to meet such requirements their financial aid will be suspended for the next semester.

- » [Philander Smith College Catalogue](#)
- » [Financial Aid](#)

Prairie View A&M University

Those who do not meet SAP requirements at the end of an enrolled semester are put on Financial Aid Warning and can retain their funding, however if they are not back in good standing by the end of the semester, they are then put on Financial Aid Suspension. Those on suspension are given the option to send in an appeal to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships Appeals Committee, those who submit appeals late will automatically be denied. All decisions made by the committee are final, if an appeal is denied the student will continue to have their aid suspended until they are back in good academic standing. If the appeal is approved, they will be put on probation, during which time they will sign an academic plan with their financial aid counselor. Failure to adhere to this plan will result in the suspension of financial aid. Those submitting an appeal must have documentation of extenuating circumstances which impacted their ability to meet SAP standards.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)
- » [Policies and Consumer Information](#)

Rust College

SAP progression is reviewed once a semester, a student not meeting these requirements will have one semester of warning, during which they will continue to receive aid. Students are only allowed one semester of warning when enrolled, and at the end of this semester their financial aid will be suspended. A student may send in an appeal to the College Policies and Appeal Committee. This appeal must have documentation of extenuating circumstances along with a Financial Aid Appeal Degree Plan from their academic advisor. The committee has the discretion to approve funding for one or more semesters, depending upon the academic plan submitted by the student. Students may submit one financial appeal while enrolled at the college. Should a student be unhappy with the decision made by the committee they can appeal directly to the Vice President of Academic Affairs via an official Student Complaint Form.

- » [Applying for Financial Aid](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form](#)

Savannah State University

SAP is calculated at the end of each semester, those not meeting standards for the first time are put on Warning, and they can continue to receive funding for one payment period. If they continue to not meet requirements they are put on Suspension, at this point they can submit a Financial Aid Appeal Form. Should this form be approved they are then put on Probation status, during this time they must follow the outline of their academic plan to maintain funding, failure to do so will result in them being put on suspension status, at which point they will have to pay out of pocket for tuition and fees until they are again in good standing. Those who wish to appeal will send in a written appeal to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee and must contain mention and documentation of extenuating circumstances which prevented the student from meeting these requirements. If an appeal is approved but the student cannot meet SAP requirements after one semester, the Committee will decree the student must follow an Academic Progress Plan to return to good standing.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Standard of Satisfactory Academic Progress for Students](#)

Shaw University

Each semester SAP progress is reviewed, and students will be put into one of six categories: Good Standing, Academic Watch, Academic Warning, Academic Probation, Academic Suspension or Academic Dismissal. Academic Watch is flagged if a student has a GPA of .9 or less and has attempted 24 or more credit hours, students in this category must repeat failed courses, visit the Academic Advising Center for an Academic Recovery Plan, do weekly check-ins at the Academic Advising Center and follow the stipulations of their Academic Recovery Plan. Those on Academic Warning will have one semester to meet SAP standards before they are put on academic suspension. Those on warning cannot take more than 13 hours, repeat all failed courses, visit the Academic Advising Center to create an Academic Recovery Plan, do weekly check-ins at the Academic Advising Center, and do two hours of tutoring at the

Student Success Center. Academic Suspension takes place at the end of the second semester for students not meeting requirements at the end of a semester of academic warning. Readmission is done on the recommendation of the Academic Standards Committee, if a student is readmitted, they must work with someone at the Academic Advising Center to create a recovery plan, this staff member will review their information at the end of every semester and report this information to the Academic Standards Committee. A student who has been academically dismissed has to leave the university for at least a semester, they can appeal to the Academic Standards Committee for readmission. Students wishing to appeal Academic Suspension and Academic Dismissal must send in a letter which has been reviewed by the Academic Advising Center and must contain an Academic Success Recovery Plan. This recovery plan must include obstacles faced the previous semester, how these obstacles will be overcome and a list of solutions. Students who have been readmitted twice via appeal are not eligible to be readmitted.

» [Academic Standing and Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Shelton State Community College

Students not meeting SAP requirements may submit a Financial Aid Appeal to the Financial Aid Office, it will also need to be submitted to the Enrollment Services Office. Appeals are not approved without documentation of mitigating circumstances, and all reviews are final.

» [Minimum Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Shorter College

SAP is reviewed at the end of each semester by the Financial Aid Office. Students are notified in this manner but are also responsible for monitoring their own progress and ensuring they are meeting all requirements to retain their financial aid. If a student does not meet these requirements, they will be on Financial Aid Warning and will have funds for one more semester, if their SAP progress does not

improve, they will not be eligible for funds for the next semester, which will put them on Financial Aid Termination. Those who have documentation of extenuating circumstances may submit an appeal. If an appeal is approved the student can either be put on Probation or Academic Plan. Probation is when an appeal is approved for aid for one semester, if they do not meet requirements by the end of the semester their aid will be terminated. If the appeal is approved with an Academic Plan the student will have to follow this plan to regain their eligibility. All appeals are reviewed by the Financial Aid Appeal Committee.

» [Financial Aid Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

South Carolina State University

Students not meeting SAP progress will be put on financial aid warning for one semester, wherein they can continue to receive aid for one semester, if they fail to meet SAP requirements after this semester they will lose their financial aid. They may submit an appeal via the Financial Aid Appeal Process, in which they submit a Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form. There must be evidence of undue hardship the student faced which led to them not being able to make SAP progress. If the appeal is approved the student will be put on Financial Aid Probation for a semester. During the total time of enrollment students can appeal only two times. If a student is approved, they are required to create an Academic Success Plan which is signed off by the academic advisor and then approved by the Dean or Associate Provost. The student must follow the tenets of this plan to continue to receive aid.

» [Satisfactory Academic Progress Guidelines for Federal Financial Aid](#)

» [Financial Aid Appeal for Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Southern University and A&M College

SAP Progress is reviewed once a year in the Spring, if a student has been suspended their aid will automatically be suspended and will only be reassessed when they enter back into the university. Those not meeting requirements may submit an appeal, if approved this would put them on financial aid probation. At the end of this period

the student must be meeting SAP requirements or following their Academic Plan. The Academic Plan is created alongside the Center for Student Success and enforced through the Center for Teaching and Learning. If a student does not meet SAP requirements or does not follow their academic plan, they will have to submit another appeal to regain their financial aid. All appeals must contain evidence of mitigating circumstances which impacted on a student's ability to meet SAP requirements. These will then be reviewed by the Appeals Committee; a student may only submit four financial aid appeals during their enrollment. All decisions made by the Appeals Committee are final and cannot be overturned.

- » [Academic Appeal](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for Financial Aid](#)

Southern University at Nola

Students may submit an academic appeal if they are not meeting SAP, to do so they must complete a Financial Aid Appeal Form and an accompanying Academic Action Plan Form. All students have SAP reviewed at the end of the spring semester, although those who are on financial aid probation will also be reviewed during the fall semester. If a student wishes to appeal there must be extenuating circumstances which prevent them from meeting requirements, they will also have to supply supporting documentation to this end. All appeals are reviewed by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. A student may submit a maximum of four appeals during their time of enrollment. Those who do have their appeal approved are then placed on Financial Aid Probation. To continue this probation and to receive funds the student must complete 70% of total hours taken during that semester and meet GPA requirements. Should a student fail to do so they may submit another appeal, although the circumstances must be different than those sent in from the original appeal. Students who have appeals approved but need longer than one semester to be back in good standing will be put on an academic plan, which the student must follow.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for Financial Aid Eligibility](#)

Southern University at Shreveport

SAP Progress is reviewed at the end of every semester, including summer, by the Financial Aid Office. As the University does have an Academic Bankruptcy policy, this will not impact the students GPA measurement, but the attempted hours will count when calculating their pace progression. Students who chose to change their major will have their pace recalculated, however this can only happen once during a student's enrollment. A student not meeting requirements is given one warning semester, if a student does not meet requirements within this semester they will then move to suspension. They may submit an appeal to have aid reinstated, however, there must be documentation of extenuating circumstances. If the appeal is approved the student will be put on a Financial Aid Academic Plan, which they will be required to follow to retain their financial aid. A student who fails to make sufficient progress or who has their appeal denied is put on Financial Aid Suspension, during which time they cannot file an appeal for that semester but can file one after the end of the semester.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Forms](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress for Federal Student Aid](#)



Southwestern Christian College

At the start of each term SAP is evaluated, including Summer. Those on Financial Aid Warning, Financial Aid Probation, Financial Aid Termination and Financial Aid Reinstatement will all be notified by the Office of Financial Aid. Students not meeting these requirements can continue to receive aid for one semester without an appeal, this will put them on Financial Aid Warning. If a student is still not meeting SAP requirements at the end of this period they are then in 'Financial Aid Termination' and cannot receive any further aid unless they have an approved appeal, which would put them on Financial Aid Probation. Those who successfully appeal will have aid for one semester, unless it is not possible for them to be in good standing after only one semester, in which case they will be put on an Academic Plan which they must follow. A successful appeal must include circumstances with documentation of events.

- » [Documents & Forms](#)
- » [Financial Aid FAQs](#)

Spelman College

SAP is reviewed at the end of every semester and students will be placed into one of the following categories: Satisfactory Status, SAP Warning, SAP Suspension, SAP Probation, SAP Probation Continued and Ineligible. Those in Satisfactory Status are meeting SAP requirements and no further action is required. SAP Warning is for those who are in their first semester of not meeting requirements. SAP Suspension follows a semester of SAP Warning, students may appeal at this stage. If an appeal is approved a student will be put on SAP Probation for one semester, all appeals are sent to the Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee. In this appeal a student must explain what happened which led to them not meeting SAP requirements and in the future to avoid such circumstances in the future, with documentation if available. All decisions made by the Committee are final and cannot be appealed. If a student has their appeal approved, they must submit an Academic Plan, working with the Dean in the Office of Undergraduate Studies,

which is then submitted to the Office of Financial Aid, if a student is compliant in this plan they may maintain funding. If a student goes into a second semester working on their Academic Plan, they are put on SAP Probation Continued. Students are deemed ineligible if they were on SAP Probation but have not made progress towards their academic plan or are meeting SAP requirements.

- » [Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form](#)

St. Augustine's University

Those not meeting SAP requirements can appeal for reconsideration, they must complete the appeal form and send this to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. They must make mention of mitigating circumstances as well as provide documentation of such circumstances mentioned. Students are further required to meet with their Academic Advisor to determine courses needed to regain eligibility. Students will be told of the appeal decision within 14 days, if the appeal is approved, they will be on Probation and have to sign a SAP Action Plan with the Office of Financial Aid. Those granted an appeal and who do not meet requirements are then put on Financial Aid suspension until they meet SAP requirements. Those who do not meet the Plan of Action will not be eligible for aid for the next semester, they can however, submit another appeal. If an appeal is denied a student may take courses but they will have to pay for these courses.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form](#)

Stillman College

SAP Progress is monitored at the end of each semester, students may be put of financial aid probation and receive financial aid for two semesters. During this probationary year students must pass 24 hours of coursework and receive a 1.8 GPA, those who do not meet these requirements will have financial aid suspended. A student on

probation will be dismissed from the College if at the end of the probationary period they are not meeting requirements. Those dismissed for academic reasons can re-apply for enrollment after sitting out a semester. Students may submit an appeal if they fail to meet these requirements only if there are mitigating circumstances. The appeals must include supporting documentation, which will then be reviewed by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee within one week of the deadline.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Talladega College

SAP evaluations take place at the end of each semester by the Financial Aid Office. Those considered to be 'Meeting SAP' will have to take no further action. Those on 'SAP Warning' are those who are not meeting the SAP standards. SAP Suspension is for those who are not meeting SAP standards after a period of 'SAP Warning'. Students may submit a SAP Appeal, which should have an attached letter with documentation which explains why the student did not meet requirements. The form must also have a S.T.A.R. (Students Targeted to Achieve Retention) Plan, create in tandem with the Student Success Center Advisor. If the appeal is approved the student is put on SAP Probation, the length of which will be determined on a case-by-case basis. This length is determined by how long the student will take to get back in good standing, and their progression will be continuously monitored. Those who cannot appeal are those who have attempted 180 or more credits or who cannot graduate within the 180-credit limit.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)

Tennessee State University

SAP is reviewed at the end of each spring semester, and those previously put on Academic Plans are measured at the end of each term. If plans are not followed, the student will lose their aid, although they can appeal their suspension if they are not already on

an Academic Plan. If they fail to meet the Academic Plan, they may submit a second plan only if there are unavoidable circumstances impacting the student. Those who have gone past the time limit can send in an appeal directly to the Director of Financial Aid, must include a graduation plan signed by an academic advisor. If a student not meeting cumulative GPA requirements has an approved appeal, they must maintain a 2.25 GPA while on their academic plan. Those who are not meeting the required completed hours must complete 75% of all attempted hours when they are on the academic plan. Those not meeting either the GPA requirement or completion rate must have a 2.25 GPA and complete 75% of attempted hours during their academic plan.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid](#)

Texas College

Students not meeting SAP requirements are put on Financial Aid Warning, in which they will continue to receive aid, at the end of the term the academic progression will be re-evaluated. If a student is still not meeting SAP, they will be put on Financial Aid Probation and must go through the Financial Aid Appeals process which will then go to the Appeals Committee. If the appeal is denied they will remain in financial aid suspension. If a student has their plan approved, they will be put on Financial Aid Probation and can continue to receive funding but must maintain the required SAP progression. If they do not meet the SAP progression but follow their academic plan, they can submit another appeal showing they have met it. Students not meeting requirements can submit a SAP appeal mentioning mitigating circumstances. If a student does not have mitigating circumstances they can reapply for financial aid if they complete the following requirements: enroll in 6 credit hours, pay tuition out of pocket, and complete courses with a C or better. Those who submit a Financial Aid Appeal but will not meet SAP progression after one semester will also have to submit an Academic Plan. This Academic Plan must be followed, and students will have to meet with their faculty advisor and have a 75% completion rate,

and cannot have any drops or withdrawals, and must maintain the required GPA.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)

Texas Southern College

SAP is evaluated on a yearly basis at the end of the last term award. The Office of Student Financial Assistance provides warnings to students at risk of losing their financial aid eligibility. Those put on Financial Aid Suspension cannot receive funding, but they can submit an appeal. Students who wish to appeal must do so by the 12th day of Fall/Spring classes and 4th day of summer, those who do not meet these deadlines will not have their appeal considered. All appeals are reviewed by a committee. If an appeal is approved students are on a probationary period where, in the end, they must be making proper progression or following the parameters of their academic plan. Those with conditional approval must submit further documentation in the form of an academic success plan signed by their advisor. Those who had an appeal denied can continue to attempt and must earn a minimum of 6 hours before they can be considered for reinstatement.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)

Tougaloo College

Students not meeting SAP requirements may send in a form to the Office of Financial Aid via a form available from the Student Academic Success Center. If the appeal is approved students must limit withdrawals, earn a 2.0 GPA, complete 67% of courses registered and continue to make academic progression. A student's Academic Advisor is tasked with assist in the development of a plan to return a student to good standing and will provide needed guidance to the student throughout the semester.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Academic Plan](#)
- » [Academic Standards & Procedures](#)

Tuskegee University

Students who are not meeting SAP requirements may appeal against the suspension of their financial aid, a process which they must take initiative. Appeals must contain documentation of extenuating circumstances, and these should no longer have any bearing on academic progress. To begin this process students must complete an Appeal Application and submit it to the chairperson of the Financial Aid Appeals Committee.

- » [Financial Aid Rules, Rights & Responsibilities](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form](#)

University of the Virgin Islands

A student not meeting SAP requirements will be automatically placed on Financial Aid Warning, during this semester they will continue to receive aid and do not have to submit an appeal. However, if they continue to not meet SAP standards they will be put on Financial Aid Suspension, however they may send in an appeal to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee to regain financial aid. All appeals must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office and must contain documentation of extenuating circumstances which prevented a student from maintaining proper SAP progress, what they will change in the future to address such issues. Those who do have their appeals approved will then be in probationary status.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)
- » [Financial Aid](#)

Virginia State University

Students in their first semester of not meeting academic requirements will be put on Financial Aid Warning and will have one semester to meet requirements before they are moved to Financial Aid Cancellation. Students may appeal this suspension if there is documentation of mitigating circumstances which impacted the student's academic success. Documentation must come from a verifiable third party, an appeal sent to the office of Student

Financial Aid will automatically be denied if it is submitted without documentation.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)

Virginia Union University

Any student not meeting SAP requirements for the first time will automatically be placed on Warning and will not have to submit an appeal. They can enroll if they do not make proper progression by the end of this term. However they will not have aid unless they have an appeal approved, in which case they will be placed on Probation. Students wishing to appeal must write a letter which has documentation of undue hardship faced during the semester which led to them failing to make satisfactory progress. The student also must indicate what has since changed in their circumstances, if the appeal is granted, they must fill out an Academic Success Plan and file this with the Office of Enrollment Services before the start of the semester in which they have had financial aid reinstated.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Guidelines for Federal Financial Aid](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Guidelines for Graduate/Professional Students](#)

Virginia University of Lynchburg

- » [Academic Policies](#)

Voorhees University

The Office of Student Financial Aid reviews SAP progress once a year, if a student is not meeting requirements, they automatically have their aid cancelled. A student can submit an appeal if there are documented mitigating circumstances which impacted their academic success. All requests must be sent within 30 days of notice of a student not meeting requirements, the appeals will then be reviewed by the Financial Aid/Academic Review Committee. The student must notify the committee when they do begin meeting

SAP requirements again so they may have their aid fully restored. Appeals are approved for one semester of probation; students cannot regain financial aid if they have been dismissed. If a student is not able to meet SAP standards after one semester, they may be asked to submit a Plan of Study, outlining the timeline and steps needed for them to begin meeting SAP requirements.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)
- » [Financial Aid](#)



West Virginia State University

Students who have not met SAP requirements can regain their eligibility through paying for their classes and beginning to meet requirements or submitting an appeal. The appeal should be sent to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships and must contain documentation of why the student did not meet the requirements. Appeals are not considered for summer terms. All appeal decisions are made by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship and must include an appeal form and academic plan for improvement, letter of extenuating circumstances and documentation. To appeal students can submit a Financial Aid Suspension Appeal Form to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, appeals cannot be processed if the student is on Academic Suspension with the Academic Affairs Office. Those with approved appeals will be put on financial aid probation and have an academic plan. Students can continue to receive aid if they meet the conditions of their plan. Students can

file a second appeal if they do not meet these requirements, but they cannot appeal for the same reason twice.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Process](#)

Wilberforce University

Students who wish to appeal their financial aid suspension must be enrolled in school otherwise the Director of Financial Aid will not review the appeal or forward it to the Admissions/Financial Aid Sub-Committee. If a student has been academically suspended, they must have dismissal overturned or be reinstated to the university for the appeal to be considered. Appeals are reviewed during fall and spring semesters, and the appeal must include circumstances that impacted academic performance along with documentation. All appeals are reviewed by the Director of Financial Aid, if an appeal is denied and the student wishes to re-appeal they can do so through the Admissions/Financial Aid Subcommittee whose decision will be final.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Wiley University

The Office of Financial Aid reviews a student's SAP progress at the end of each academic year, if a student is not meeting the requirements they are then put on Financial Aid Suspension. Aid cannot be retroactively reinstated for previous semesters if lost. Students can submit an appeal, but there must be documentation of mitigating circumstances which impeded their academic progress, all appeals will then be reviewed by the SAP Appeals Committee. Incomplete appeals will not be reviewed, and the student will have one warning and three days to submit necessary information if their appeal is incomplete. Those who have appeals denied will be on Financial Aid Suspension. The Committee is not required to provide justification of the decision to the student or the parent, and the student can only receive three appeals during their enrollment.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

Winston-Salem University

There are three levels of SAP status: good standing, warning and unsatisfactory progress. Those on warning are those not meeting standards but have one semester to improve, those in unsatisfactory progress are those not meeting SAP after the warning period and are no longer eligible for financial aid. A student may submit a SAPFA appeal, which would then go to a committee to be reviewed.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)
- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress for Continued Financial Aid Policy](#)

Xavier University of Louisiana

Students not meeting SAP requirements can appeal their suspension of their aid, but the information submitted must address extenuating circumstances with documentation leading to the failure to meet SAP requirements. All appeals must be submitted within six weeks of notice of eligibility. Students can submit a maximum of two appeals per degree attempt. The Appeal Committee makes all decisions, which are final.

- » [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#)



Policy Recommendations

While there is no easy solution for how to best implement SAP policies, there are a few ways in which institutions can make the policy more accessible and easier to understand. For one, the Office of Financial Aid needs to be responsible for telling students if they were not previously meeting SAP requirements that they are now. It should not be up to the student to have to tell the Office of Financial Aid if they were previously failing to meet SAP requirements but now are meeting them. Students are not likely to understand the intricacies of how to calculate such information, and this can create additional barriers and equity gaps for those who do not have a strong grasp of federal SAP policy. Students should be expected to read and understand the consequences of not meeting SAP requirements, but it should not be left to them to inform the Office of Financial Aid of any such changes to their status.

It is further recommended SAP reports are run every semester and students be given one semester of warning in which they may still receive federal aid but are expected to meet requirements by the end of the semester. The reason being if a student who is a first year does not meet requirements during a Fall semester, they may dig themselves into an even deeper hole by the end of Spring semester before they realize the detrimental consequences, and by the time they are fully informed and aware it may take them longer than one semester to recover.

When students are not meeting SAP requirements it is critical they work with an academic advisor, retention specialist, or someone else trained in academic support and success. This professional can work with the student on which classes to retake to regain good academic and financial standing. Students may fail to understand the consequences of taking new classes instead of repeating courses previously failed, and it is our duty as higher education practitioners to guide them in this process. Approving a SAP appeal

without an approved Academic Success Plan sets the student up for failure, in order to foster a growth mindset and encourage individual responsibility there needs to be a Plan on file which the student is held accountable for. This also sets standards for what they need to do, as well as a sustained timeline of when they can expect to begin meeting SAP requirements once again. Other elements recommended to accompany this include seminars, coaching, required tutoring, and other supplements which address underlying issues related to why a student failed to make proper progression in the first place.

Far too few programs have sustained and set plans for what students should do once they have had their appeal approved or denied, there is some planning available for those who have their appeal approved, but most of it is loosely structured. Those who have their appeal denied typically have no recourse and are given no type of academic plan despite their also failing to adhere to standards. By providing each student not meeting SAP requirements with a holistic academic plan and support, HBCUs can better address underlying issues which led to failure of academic progression in the first place. One way to address such issues before they arise, as previously mentioned, is to check SAP progress every semester, creating a system of early alert to flag students before they lose funding and provide them a semester to make proper pace and progression towards their degree. This early process could further include individualized academic plans, which is recommended if students do submit a successful appeal and retain their funding, these academic plans are a critical part of guiding the student back towards a path of academic success. In having these plans be part of the stipulations which a student must follow to retain funding, there is also an inherent system of integrity and built-in responsibility, while the student is given another chance, it is still up to them to take ownership of their academic goals and forge a path of success.

One theme throughout the SAP appeal process across institutions was the documentation and proof of extenuating or mitigating circumstances students experienced which led to academic tribulations. Many institutions provided examples of what such circumstances, as well as which ones would not count, such as trouble adjusting to school, difficulties with their schedule, or dislike of a professor. Circumstances which warrant an appeal include situations such as death of a loved one, interpersonal violence, severe mental distress, serious medical issues, or other such events. It is worth questioning if providing documentation of such impediments is retraumatizing students, particularly those who were victims of crimes, interpersonal violence, or housing insecurity. It is difficult to prove some of these circumstances as this would involve direct and intimate contact with public safety and police officers, particularly in the realm of interpersonal violence, this is often underreported, or victims retract statements. Severe mental distress is often difficult to prove, and often the documentation sought is from a medical professional, which would necessitate a student having spare funds to go to a therapist to seek treatment. Given the nature of the American medical system, this process can be time consuming and expensive, even if one does have relatively good insurance, and this is with the assumption that students have insurance, and that they feel comfortable reaching out for this type of support. While this is not to say that students should be given a free pass for failing to make progress, but that it may be worth considering inherent systems of inequity and racism within the U.S. that make it difficult for certain populations to access much needed services. While there are no easy solutions to this problem, and this research brief does not purport to have one, it is worth considering the potential damage done to students when they are asked to re-tell traumatic events and provide documentation of such events. Sustained support for those who have had appeals approved is present in several programs, but there seems to be little recourse for those who had appeals denied. While the circumstances of academic difficulties do not rise to the level of mitigating circumstances, these students still show signs of struggling to

adjust to college life. Therefore, it is critical to provide some type of plan for these students addressing the issues they faced during a semester of poor progression. Given the rather complicated nature of SAP appeals, aiding with appeals including the writing process, creating an academic plan, and knowing the type of documentation to provide is also important. Given there are often few of those on campuses who understand the full workings and requirements of SAP documentation and the process itself, having clearly outlined guidelines and support systems would be a way to alleviate stress during this process. Particularly since students often must write about events which are often emotionally, mentally, physically or financially taxing.

These networks of support would further include providing recommendations to utilize or requiring the use of services such as academic accommodations, academic coaching, academic assistance, counseling, housing insecurity, food insecurity, etc. For many there are persistent and ongoing financial issues, and while it is not feasible to provide every student with funds, there is merit behind establishing a needs-based micro grant system providing small amounts of emergency funds to students facing issues such as housing or food insecurity, loss of job, or other issues with their home life, including intimate partner violence, which prevent them from being able to focus wholly on academics. While institutions cannot be responsible for and provide access to every area impeding students' progress, in building meaningful relationships with the larger community, they can easily refer students to an outside network of support and professionals who can address such questions. Given the historical underfunding of HBCUs, many of the support systems present and other institutions are simply not available on HBCU campuses, however, these must be a priority if we as higher education professionals are to meaningfully reduce barriers to student success. Some of this work can also be cost neutral, such as peer support networks, resource booklets, and assistance with the SAP process. There are those already on campuses dedicated to such work and in such positions, these

individuals can be leveraged more meaningfully to take part in this process to provide much needed student support.

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Appendix

Table 1: HBCU SAP Policies

Institution	Hours	GPA	Hours	GPA	Hours	GPA	Hours	GPA	Hours	GPA	Hours	GPA
Southern College, Tougaloo College, Southern University at Nola, St. Augustin's University, Talladega College, Tuskegee University, Virginia Union University, Wilberforce University, Winston-Salem University, Bowie State University, Central State University, Clark Atlanta University, Delaware State University, University of the District of Columbia, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Florida A&M University, Florida Memorial University, Grambling State University, Hampton University, North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina Central University, Paul Quinn College, Prairie View A&M, Harris-Stowe University, J.F. Drake State Technical College, Jackson State University, Kentucky State University, Eastern Shore Maryland, Morgan State, Paul Quinn College, Morris Brown College	0	2										
Shelton State Community College, H. Council Trenholm State Community College	1-21	1.5 and 58%	22-32	1.75 and 62%	33+	2 and 57%						

Mississippi Valley State University, Southern University and A&M College	1-29	1.51	30-59	1.75	60+	2						
Lane College, Shaw University, Rust College	1-29	1.5	30-59	1.85	60+	2						
Hinds Community College at Utica, Virginia State University	1-29	1.5	30+	2								
West Virginia University, Wiley University	1-59	1.75	60+	2								
Alabama A&M	1-24	1.5	25-44	1.75	45+	2						
Alabama State University	1-31	1.6	32-62	1.8	63+	2						
Albany State University	1-15	1.3	16-29	1.55	30-45	1.75	46-59	1.9	60+	2		
Allen University	1-30	1.5	31-60	1.75	61-90	1.8	91+	2				
Arkansas at Pine Bluff	1-29	1.5	30-59	1.75	60+	2						
Arkansas Baptist College	1-29	1.5	30-59	1.75	60+	2						
Benedict College	1-15	1.75	16-29	1.8	30-45	1.9	46+	2				
Bennett College												
Bluefield State College	1-57	1.75	58+	2								
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania	1-24	1.5	25-36	1.6	37-48	1.75	49-59	1.85	60+	2		
Clinton College	1-15	1	16-27	1.26	28-39	1.51	40-51	1.76	52+	2		
Coahoma Community College	1-16	1.5	17-32	1.7	33-48	1.85	48+	2				
Coppin State University	1-29	1.75	30-59	1.9	60+	2						
Denmark Technical College	1-35	1.5	35-60	1.8	51+	2						
Dillard University	1-29	1.5	30-60	1.75	61+	2						
Edward Waters University	1-29	1.75	30+	2								
Fisk University	1-24	1.8	25-36	1.9	37+	2						
Howard University	0	2										
Huston-Tillotson University	1-24	1.8	24	2								
Jarvis Christian University	1-30	1.5	31-60	1.75	61+	2						

Johnson C. Smith University		1.7	30-59	1.9	60+	2						
Langston University		1.7	30+	2								
Livingstone College		1.6	26-57	1.8	58+	2						
Miles College		1.6	30-59	1.8	60+	2						
Morehouse College		1.8	30+	2								
Norfolk State University		1.7	30-59	1.8	60+	2						
Oakwood University		1.7	25+	2								
Paine College		1.7	28-59	1.8	60+	2						
South Carolina State University		1.4	40-59	1.6	60-99	1.9	100+	2				
Southern University at Shreveport		1.5 & 50%	26-45	1.75 & 67%	46+	2 & 67%						
Spelman College		1.8	Second Year +	2								
Stillman College		1.6	31-61	1.8	62+	2						
Tennessee State University		1.5	16-30	1.7	31-45	1.8	46-59	1.9	60+	2		
Texas College		1.5	16-30	1.7	31-45	1.9	46+	2				
The Lincoln University		1.5	31-59	1.75	60+	2						
University of the Virgin Islands		N/A	12-29	1.7 & 50%	30-44	1.8 % 60%	45+	2 and 67%				
Virginia University of Lynchburg		1	19-36	1.6	37-54	1.7	55-72	1.8	73-90	1.9	90+	2
Voorhees University		1.55	30-59	1.75	60-89	1.95	90+	2				
Xavier University of Louisiana		1.7	30-60	1.8	61+	2						

Table 2: HBCU SAP Ratio Policies

Institution	Max Credit Hours	Ratio
Florida Memorial University	150	50%
Benedict College	150	66%

Alabama A&M	192	67%
Fisk University	120	75%
Arkansas Baptist College	124	67%
Howard University, Philander Smith College	150	70%
Huston-Tillotson University, Tuskegee University, Spelman College	150	75%
Jackson State University	150	80%
Alabama State University, Arkansas at Pine Bluff	180	67%