

ACADEMIC STANDING AND PROGRESS

Academic Standing and Progress

Students must meet certain standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to maintain eligibility for federal and institutional aid.¹ The College is required to measure students' progress using a qualitative standard (GPA) and a quantitative standard (progress toward a degree). Additionally, students must complete all degree requirements within 150% of the timeframe that the College has determined it should take to earn that degree (measured in credit hours). Recipients of federal student aid and/or institutional funding are expected to make reasonable progress toward their degree as a condition of receiving and continuing to receive that aid.

Program Pursuit (quantitative standard)

To remain in good academic standing for federal and institutional aid, an Ithaca College undergraduate student must successfully complete 67% of all credit hours attempted. Classes in which the student earns grades of F, W, I or U are not considered successfully completed. Transfer credits accepted by Ithaca College are included in this calculation. A student's program pursuit progress is reviewed at the end of each spring semester.

GPA Requirements (qualitative standard)

To remain in good academic standing for federal and institutional aid, an Ithaca College undergraduate student must have earned a cumulative grade point of average of at least 1.8 by the end of their first year of study. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 is required for all subsequent years. Ithaca College reviews cumulative grade point average at the end of the spring semester each academic year.

A student who fails to meet the above requirements will be ineligible for federal and institutional financial aid until the appropriate standards are achieved. The student may request a one-time waiver of these eligibility requirements if they were unable to meet them due to an extenuating circumstance or personal hardship.

The following are examples of hardship and/or circumstances that may be deemed appropriate for an appeal:

- Injury or illness of the student;
- Injury, illness, or death of an immediate family member or other family difficulty;
- Fire, flood or other catastrophic events;
- Other circumstances beyond your control that occurred during the term in which the student was not able to meet academic progress requirements.

To request a waiver of these eligibility requirements, the student may submit a Satisfactory Academic Progress Waiver Request form to the Office of Student Financial Services. The information submitted should include the following:

1. The reason why the student was not able to meet the College's minimum academic requirements listed above.
2. Documentation of any unique circumstance that may have contributed to the student's inability to meet the standards.

3. A plan for meeting the standards within a reasonable time frame. In most cases, this must include an academic plan that the student creates with an academic advisor.

Waiver requests are reviewed by the Satisfactory Academic Progress Committee and the student is notified of the outcome via email or postal mail. All decisions made by the Satisfactory Academic Progress Committee are final and cannot be appealed.

Students who are denied a waiver will be ineligible for federal and institutional aid until they are once again meeting the College's Satisfactory Academic Progress standards or until they can be approved for a waiver. Students who do not apply for a waiver will be ineligible for federal and institutional aid until they are once again meeting the College's Satisfactory Academic Progress standards.

¹ Merit scholarships may have different academic progress requirements from other institutional funding.

Waiver of Standards

Students who do not meet the minimum SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress) requirements as of the end of the spring semester are ineligible for federal and institutional aid. These students may apply for a one-time waiver of the minimum requirements. If granted a one-time waiver, a student's federal and institutional aid are reinstated for a period of one semester. At the end of the waiver semester, the student must be meeting the minimum SAP requirements. If the student is not meeting the minimum standards, they are ineligible for federal and institutional aid until they are meeting minimum SAP requirements.

Students who are denied a waiver will be ineligible for federal and institutional aid until they are once again meeting the College's Satisfactory Academic Progress standards or until they can be approved for a waiver. Students who do not apply for a waiver will be ineligible for federal and institutional aid until they are once again meeting the College's Satisfactory Academic Progress standards.

See Academic Standing and Progress.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Waiver Request forms are available from the Office of Student Financial Services. Completed forms and supporting documentation should be submitted to the Office of Student Financial Services.

Students denied a waiver and those who do not apply for a waiver may regain eligibility for federal and institutional aid by meeting the minimum Academic Standing and Progress requirements.