

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

M.D. students at UCF College of Medicine who receive Title IV aid must meet the following Standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Institutional aid also requires the attainment of these standards with exceptions determined by the associate dean for students.

Background

All M.D. students are enrolled full-time while in attendance at UCF College of Medicine. Students proceed through the four years of study with class levels delineated at M1, M2, M3 and M4. Medical students' academic, clinical and professional performance is reviewed by the Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee (SEPC) on a regular basis. During the Annual Evaluation, each student will be reviewed to determine the student's preparedness for advancement to the next level of medical study and to ensure that they have met all academic, clinical and professional requirements. M.D. students do not receive calculated grade point averages. The outcome of each student's Annual Evaluation is shared by the registrar with the Office of Student Financial Services (SFS). Academic progress for financial aid purposes occurs at the end of every year, coinciding with the SEPC Annual Evaluation. The M.D. program's academic term is equal to one academic year.

Students that do not meet SAP standards are notified via email and are invited in for a one-on-one session with the staff of Student Financial Services to review the policy and the student's status.

Quantitative Standards

The maximum time frame to complete the four year medical school program is six years from the date that the student starts the program. The student must have completed two years successfully by the end of the fourth year of enrollment. If the student is not maintaining the required pace to complete the degree within six years, the student becomes ineligible for financial aid. Any exceptions due to extenuating circumstances must be granted by the associate dean for students.

Qualitative Standards

The SEPC evaluates students at the end of each academic year. In order to meet SAP, students must be deemed by the SEPC to meet satisfactory academic progress toward the program goals and objectives.

Appeals and Financial Aid Probation

Students who become ineligible to receive aid will be notified in writing of their ineligibility status and have the right to submit an appeal for reinstatement of aid on the basis of injury, illness, death of a relative or other special circumstance. The appeal must include: the reasons why the student failed to make satisfactory academic progress and a statement explaining what has changed in the student's situation that will allow satisfactory academic progress at the next evaluation. Documentation to support the student's appeal must be attached. If it is determined that the student will be able to meet standards again after the subsequent payment period, or if an academic plan is developed that when followed will ensure the student will meet the standards by the end of a specific time, then the appeal may be approved so that the student can be placed on financial aid probation and receive Title IV aid.

Academic progress will be reviewed again at the end of the probationary year. Probationary students who meet academic progress standards will be released from probation and are eligible for Title IV aid. Probationary students who fail to meet academic progress standards at the end of the probationary year will not be eligible to receive Title IV aid in the following year.

Re-establishing Eligibility without an Appeal

If a student is placed on SAP cancellation status and no appeal is approved, then he/she will not receive Title IV aid. The student may regain eligibility when the student has successfully been promoted to the next level by the SEPC.

If a student takes a leave of absence or withdraws and then returns to UCF College of Medicine, the student's SAP status will remain the same as when s/he left UCF. If the status is good or probationary, then the student can receive Title IV aid.