Hartnell College Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy

What is SAP?

The United States Department of Education requires that financial aid students have their academic progress reviewed each academic year (fall, spring, and summer semesters) to determine if Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) has been achieved. Hartnell will review SAP at the end of each term. The government requires that students who apply for financial assistance meet two standards: Qualitative and Quantitative.

This eligibility requirement applies to all forms of Federal Title IV student aid (Pell Grants, SEOG Grants, Federal Workstudy, and the Cal Grant Program.) These standards do not apply to the California Board of Governors Fee Waiver Program (BOGW). Federal regulations require that the standards applied to students receiving financial aid also apply to those students during periods when they were not receiving aid.

We recommend that all Financial Aid students meet with a Hartnell Counselor to complete a Student Educational Plan during their first semester and again once 30 attempted units have been reached (including units earned at previous colleges which apply to the student’s current major). It is the student’s responsibility to enroll in courses toward his or her educational goal.

Qualitative Standard

All students must have a Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 or better. This includes all courses including ESL and remedial.

Quantitative Standard

Students must complete a certain percentage of units attempted in order to make progress toward their goal. Students must have completed at least 67% of their cumulative units attempted. ESL courses are included in the quantitative standard.

NOTE: Attempted units are defined as any units a student remains enrolled in after the add/drop period each semester and appear on their transcript.

Units “earned” or “completed” with satisfactory progress are those courses in which a grade of A, B, C, D, or CR/P is received.

The number of units a student completes with a grade of “I”, “W”, “MW”, “F”, “NC”, “NP”, “RD”, and for audited classes or credit by exam classes will not count toward their minimum satisfactory academic requirement of 67% of units completed.

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS CHART (Example):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment Status</th>
<th>Attempted units</th>
<th>Minimum Completed units (67%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¾ Time</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¾ time</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ time</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ time</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ time</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than ⅓ time</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than ⅓ time</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maximum Units/Time Frame Allowed

Students must also complete their educational objective (graduation, transfer, and certificate in a timely manner) by the time they have attempted 90 units. This includes ALL units attempted at HCC. A student can only receive financial assistance for a maximum of 150% of the published length of the program. All units attempted, regardless if required for the major or are for personal enrichment, will count toward the 150% allowable total. A change in education objective will not start a new maximum time frame. All units taken for prior programs will be included in the 150% allowable total.

NOTE: Courses in which a student receives a “W” are also included in the 150% allowable total.

60 units is standard for completion of many of the programs at HCC. Thus, 90 units is the maximum for which a student can receive financial assistance (60 units X 150% = 90 units).

Maximum Units Time Frame Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Program</th>
<th>Maximum Units Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA/AS or Transfer Program</td>
<td>90 units attempted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate Program</td>
<td>45 units attempted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The maximum unit time frame includes units attempted at Hartnell College during all periods of enrollment in which the student did or did not receive financial aid. The maximum unit time frame also includes evaluated units from prior colleges which meet program requirements of the student’s current academic objective as determined from official transcripts. This is required if the student has requested inclusion of prior academic credit for any purpose within the college.

If the student’s total units equal or exceed the maximum unit time frame of 150% (equivalent to 90 attempted units for an AA/AS or transfer), his/her eligibility for financial aid will be terminated. If there are extenuating circumstances, the student may appeal for an exception to this policy by submitting a Financial Aid Appeal petition. For further information see the SAP APPEAL section.

**Excessive Units**

- Up to 30 units of remedial basic skills courses and **all** English as a Second Language (ESL) courses will be excluded from the 150% limit.
- **Military credits** will be excluded.
- **Repeated classes:** Financial assistance may be awarded to cover the cost of courses previously taken to improve a grade. Although on a student’s academic record, the college counts only the most recent grade earned when the student repeats a course, financial aid must include the units from every attempt when calculating a student’s SAP status. Repeated semester units will count toward the 150% maximum eligibility allowed. HCC financial aid pays for only **one** repeat per course.
- **High Unit Majors:** These programs have different time frames than the average programs at HCC. For a list of all High Unit Major please see our Excessive Unit Worksheet. If a student has been accepted into one of these programs, the student may be eligible for financial assistance beyond the 90 unit maximum.

**Other Important Factors**

**GRADE CHANGES AFTER FINAL GRADES ARE ISSUED:** It is the student’s responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office of any official grade changes including removal of an Incomplete grade (I) that would affect the student’s satisfactory academic progress status.

**ACADEMIC RENEWAL:** Hartnell College has an Academic Renewal Policy through which a student may apply to have credits attempted and grades earned in previous semesters excluded from the calculation of the student’s GPA. The Federal Student Aid program regulations make no provisions for the concept of Academic Renewal. Hartnell College must include **all** courses in evaluating a student’s SAP status for financial aid purposes.

**OTHER COLLEGE UNITS:** Students wishing to receive credit for courses taken at other colleges must submit official transcripts from each college to the Admissions & Records Office.

*The Financial Aid Office makes every effort to ensure that all SAP processes are accurate. Students who believe their SAP status has been determined in error should contact the Financial Aid Office immediately to discuss their situation and to determine if an error has been made.*

**Unsatisfactory Academic Progress**

The Financial Aid Office will send e-mail notifications at the end of each semester, after grades are evaluated, to students who fail to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress.

**WARNING:**

Students will be placed on financial aid warning if they fail to complete 67% of units attempted or if they earn less than a 2.0 cumulative GPA or both. Financial Aid assistance will be continued during this warning period.

**DISQUALIFICATION:**

A student will be placed on disqualification after one term of warning if they fail to meet the satisfactory academic progress requirements of completing 67% of units attempted, or if they earn less than a 2.0 cumulative GPA or both. Students may also be placed on disqualification status if they have reached the Maximum Units/Time Frame limit or the Financial Aid Office determines they cannot complete their academic program within the time-frame allowed. Financial Aid assistance will cease during the disqualification period.

**SAP APPEAL:**

Students who have been placed on disqualification status and who have extenuating circumstances may request an Appeal of their Financial Aid status. Such extenuating circumstances shall be those acute medical, family, or other personal problems which rendered normal academic functioning unlikely or impossible. Such circumstances must be verified in writing.

A Financial Aid Appeal Committee will review and make a decision on each student’s appeal request. Only one FA Appeal may be submitted each academic year. However, if the student has continuous enrollment, the Financial Aid Appeal Committee at the start of each new academic year will automatically review your academic record for progression.
ACADEMIC HISTORY
Students will be limited to a maximum completion of two Associate Degree programs during their career at Hartnell. Exceptions will only be made if the student can demonstrate that they are a dislocated worker.

NEW SAP Appeal Process:
To appeal disqualification, students must complete the following items listed below:

1. Complete the SAP Quiz online at www.hartnell.edu/financial_aid/SAP.html.
2. Check your Hartnell Gmail account for quiz results which will be sent to you within 3-5 business days after you take the SAP Quiz.
3. If you passed the quiz, you will need to sign up for an in-person SAP Workshop by calling (831) 755-6806 or stop by the Financial Aid Office to schedule an appointment.
4. At the SAP Workshop, you will be given your SAP Appeals form to complete along with our important SAP information. You must also update your major/program with the Admissions & Records Office by completing a Change of Information form.
5. After completion of the SAP Workshop, you will be instructed to make an appointment with a counselor to develop strategies for success considering individual student needs and a comprehensive educational plan.
6. If the disqualified student has not previously taken the STAAR* assessment, they must do so before meeting with a Hartnell Counselor.
7. The declared major on the Student Educational Plan must agree with the records in Admissions & Records.
8. Submit the completed SAP Appeal Form, supporting documentation and a copy of your educational plan to the Financial Aid Office by the established deadline which are posted on the financial aid web page at http://www.hartnell.edu/financial_aid/forms.html
9. You may be asked to submit a Financial Aid Mid-Term Progress report before the FA Appeal Committee can make a decision on your SAP Appeal Form.

APPEAL COMMITTEE REVIEW:
The FA Appeal Committee will review all student Appeal petitions in a timely manner. The decision of the Appeal Committee is final. Students will be notified in writing regarding the status of their Appeal.

NOTE: Students may submit an FA Appeal petition for Committee review. However, the student’s Financial Aid file must be complete before the Committee’s decision will be posted to the student’s record.

APPROVED APPEAL STATUS:
Students with an approved appeal will only receive financial assistance for courses that are listed on their Student Educational Plan. If there are any changes to the Educational Plan, it is the student’s responsibility to submit an updated copy to the Financial Aid Office immediately. If an appeal is submitted after the established semester deadline and approved, funding will only be disbursed for the semester in which they were approved. No retroactive disbursements will be made.

Eligibility for federal, state and institutional eligibility will be determined after the appeal has been approved. Eligibility for the Board of Governors’ Fee Waiver (BOG) is not affected by SAP status.

Upon approval, the student will be placed on a probationary status and grades and progression toward degree will be reviewed each semester. Once the appeal is approved the student MUST meet all standards each semester (2.0 semester GPA and completion of all semester coursework) for continued eligibility. The student must also follow the conditions of their Education Plan. Any change to the student’s Educational Plan will require an updated Educational Plan along with a Student Statement to be submitted to the Financial Aid Department. Only one change in program will be considered and may be denied if it would require a significant extension to the student’s time frame.

If a student fails to meet all standards each semester (as an approved appeal student), he/she will become ineligible for further appeal for the remainder of the academic year and will be placed on disqualified status for the upcoming semester.

NOTE: Students exceeding the 150% maximum units/time frame allowed and who have been approved for a final award; are not eligible to appeal again.

PENDING APPEAL STATUS:
There are various reasons an appeal may be placed into pending status. Further documentation or a meeting with a Financial Aid Specialist may be required. Once the requirement(s) have been met, students will be notified with a written decision. If students do not return the missing documents within ten working days the Appeal Pending status will become an Appeal Denied status.

DENIED APPEAL STATUS:
This student is not eligible for federal, most state and institutional financial assistance. Any student whose appeal is denied may regain eligibility the next academic year by bringing their academic record up to the qualitative and quantitative standards. Students that have received final notification of the maximum units/time frame; are no longer eligible to appeal again.