

Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

Federal and state regulations require that students meet certain academic standards to be eligible for financial aid programs. The basic standards are:

- 1) students are expected to maintain a satisfactory grade point average;
- 2) students are expected to successfully complete at least 67% of the classes they attempt;
- 3) students are expected to complete their degree in a timely manner, which is defined as 90 attempted hours; and
- 4) students must also be working on their first associate degree.

The following provides more information on each one of these standards:

Grade Point Average Requirement

In order to maintain the minimum scholastic requirements, the student must maintain a minimum overall GPA based on the number of hours attempted (including transfer and remedial/developmental hours) on the following scale:

Associate Degree Programs		Certificate Degree Programs	
Semester Hours Attempted	Minimum Cumulative GPA	Semester Hours Attempted	Minimum Cumulative GPA
00.1 – 14.0	1.0	00.1 – 08.0	1.0
14.1 – 26.0	1.4	08.1 – 14.0	1.3
26.1 – 40.0	1.7	14.1 – 18.0	1.7
40.1 – 48.0	1.8	18.1 – and above	2.0
48.1 – 56.0	1.9		
56.1 – and above	2.0		

Students are evaluated each semester on whether or not they have maintained the required overall GPA based on the total number of hours attempted. It is important to note that transfer hours count in determining the overall GPA based on the total number of hours attempted. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 after the completion of 56 attempted hours.

Measurable Progress Requirement

Students are expected to maintain progress toward the completion of their degree. Therefore, students must have an overall completion rate of 67% of all hours attempted. Hours attempted include all classes ever registered for at all colleges ever attended. Classes that are dropped/withdrawn, repeated, or earn incomplete grades after the beginning of the term are counted as attempted hours. In addition, students must not fail or withdraw from all of their classes in any one semester.

Reasonable Length of Time Requirement

A reasonable length of time for completion of an associate degree program at Motlow College is defined as no more than 90 hours of college-level credit hours. A reasonable length of time for completion of a certificate degree program is defined as no more than 40 hours of college-level credit hours. It is important to note that all transfer hours count toward the maximum of 90 hours attempted to obtain an associate degree. Once the required courses to earn a degree have been completed, students are no longer eligible to receive aid. Students must be working toward their first associate degree.

Unsatisfactory Academic Progress

When students fail to meet any of the above requirements they are considered to be on unsatisfactory academic progress. Failure to meet these standards results in the loss of eligibility to receive federal aid which includes the grant, loan and work-study programs. Eligibility is also lost for the state grant program and may also result in the loss of eligibility for the lottery programs. (Specific guidelines for retaining lottery grant eligibility may be found at the [State of Tennessee Lottery Program](#).)

Once a student becomes ineligible for aid due to unsatisfactory academic progress they are not eligible to receive aid until the standards have been met. Students must attend classes and pay for them from their own resources until satisfactory progress has been re-established. In some cases, a student's failure to be in compliance with one or more of these requirements is due to events totally beyond the student's control. If such extreme circumstances can be documented for the specific term(s) when the deficiencies occurred, the student may be able to submit an appeal. However, it should also be noted that certain requirements must be met and an appeal will not be considered for students who have attempted more than 56 hours and failed to maintain an overall GPA of 2.0.

Examples of situations that may be considered extreme circumstances beyond a student's control include: serious illness or injury to the student; death or serious illness of an immediate family member; or significant trauma that impaired the student's emotional and/or physical health. Appeals may be considered for these situations providing documentation is submitted to verify the event. **Appeals will only be considered for documented extreme circumstances.** Appeals must be submitted by the deadlines on the appeal form and must include all the required documentation to verify the extreme circumstance. Appeals submitted after the deadlines or without the required documentation will not be reviewed and will result in an automatic denial. The appeal form may be obtained by clicking here [Financial Aid Appeal Form](#).

It is the student's responsibility to stay informed of the satisfactory academic progress standards and to monitor their own progress. You may check your status at any time by logging into your MyMotlow account.