

For Federal Assistance

Students receiving federal financial aid must be currently attending classes and must be making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree. To receive federal, low-interest student loans, students must also enroll in a minimum of 6 credit hours per semester. The amount of Federal Pell Grant a student qualifies to receive depends on the number of hours a student is taking: Full Pell = 12 hours or more; three-quarters Pell = 9-11 hours; half Pell = 6-8 hours; less-than-half Pell = 3-5 hours.

For State Aid

Students receiving Kansas Comprehensive Grant or the Kansas State Scholarship must maintain full-time status (12 credit hours). A minimum 2.0 GPA is required to receive the Kansas Comprehensive Grant and a minimum 3.0 GPA is required to qualify for the Kansas State Scholarship.

For Institutional Aid

To receive Southwestern College institutional aid, students must maintain full-time (minimum of 12 credit hours) status as well as maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Southwestern College is required by federal regulation to monitor satisfactory academic progress for financial aid recipients. These standards ensure that only those students demonstrating satisfactory progress toward the completion of their educational programs will continue to receive financial aid. Southwestern College's policy measures a student's performance in the following four areas: 1) successful completion of courses (credit hours), 2) cumulative grade point average (GPA), 3) maximum time to degree, and 4) overall pace toward degree.

- 1) **Successful Completion of Courses.** At the end of each fall, spring and summer semester, student progress is measured by comparing the number of attempted credit hours with the number of earned credit hours (i.e. receipt of a grade of A, B, C, D or S). In any given semester, students must have earned at least 70 percent of the credits they attempted to remain in good standing. The following letter grades do not count toward earned hours, but do count toward the calculation of attempted hours: AU - Audit, F - Failure, I - Incomplete, WD - Withdrawal, WF - Withdraw Failure.
- 2) **Cumulative Grade Point Average.** Students whose work is below levels described in the academic suspension policy are failing to make minimum progress toward their degree.
 - a. **Undergraduate Academic Suspension Policy (from Office of Registrar).** Students whose semester grade point average is below 2.0 for two consecutive semesters and whose cumulative grade point average is below 2.0 are not making progress toward the degree and therefore will be suspended from the college. Additionally, students who complete a semester with an "F" average will be suspended.
 - b. **Graduate Academic Suspension Policy (from Office of Registrar).** Graduate students who fail to make minimum progress toward the degree and who fail to maintain defined academic standards set by the Graduate Studies Council may be suspended by the college. Additionally, after completing 12 credit hours of coursework, a learner must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 for the MBA, M.Ed. and main campus graduate programs (2.5 for all other graduate programs) with no grade below a C or the student will be suspended from the graduate program.
- 3) **Maximum Time to Degree.** Undergraduate students are eligible to receive federal and state financial aid up to 186 attempted credit hours. Graduate students are eligible to receive federal and state financial aid up to 54 attempted credit hours. Once a student has exceeded the maximum attempted hours, all financial aid will be suspended for subsequent semesters.

- 4) **Overall Pace toward Degree.** At the end of the fall, spring and summer semesters, student progress is measured by comparing the number of cumulative attempted hours with the number of cumulative earned hours (i.e. receipt of a grade of A, B, C, D, or S.) Students from the graduate program must have earned at least 70 percent of the overall credits they have attempted to remain in good standing. The following letter grades do not count toward earned hours, but do count toward the completion of attempted hours: AU–Audit, F–Failure, I–Incomplete, WD–Withdrawal, WF–Withdraw Failure.

Financial Aid Warning/Suspension/Probation

At the end of the fall, spring and summer semesters, all aid recipients will be evaluated for satisfactory academic progress. Financial aid recipients who do not meet requirements 1, 2 and 4 mentioned above will be placed on financial aid warning for one semester. A student on financial aid warning is eligible to receive financial aid for the next semester of attendance.

If the student does not meet requirements 1, 2 and 4 during the warning period, the student will be placed on financial aid suspension. Students who do not meet requirement 3 (maximum hours to degree) are automatically placed on suspension without a warning period. Suspension prevents the student from receiving any federal, state, or institutional financial assistance for future semesters until such time as the student again meets all four satisfactory academic progress standards. Students on suspension have the option to appeal the decision.

Conditions for Reinstatement

Students may appeal their financial aid suspension by submitting an appeal form to the financial aid office for consideration by a committee of student services officials. Appeal forms are available from the financial aid office.

Some circumstances, such as medical problems, illness, death in the family, relocation, or employment changes can be considered for an appeal. The committee will review the appeal and contact the student by a reasonable date. Students who are approved will be placed on probation and required to submit to a prescribed academic plan. The committee's decision is considered final and may not be appealed further.

Students who choose to pay for their expenses using private resources may continue to enroll in subsequent semesters without appealing. Students may have their financial aid reinstated and may be removed from suspension or probationary status once all satisfactory academic progress standards and/or probationary conditions are met.