

Federal regulations mandate that all students make satisfactory, measurable academic progress toward completion of a degree in order to receive federal assistance through Title IV federal grant and loan programs. This policy also applies to students who receive GI Bill funding.

The academic record of all students will be monitored to ensure compliance with the requirements specified below; therefore, the academic record of those who have not received federal student aid in the past may impact future eligibility. SAP regulations apply to all semesters and to full and part-time students.

SAP will be evaluated at the end of each term (fall, spring, and summer) using the following three categories:

1. Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)
2. Cumulative Credit Hour Completion Rate (Pace)
3. Maximum Time Frame for Degree Completion

SAP Chart A (Effective April 1, 2024)	Certificate Program	Undergraduate Program			Graduate Program
**Total Hours Attempted for Degree Consideration from All Institutions	All Hours	1-24 Hours	25-47 Hours	48 + hours	All Hours
1. Minimum Required cumulative GPA (Qualitative)	2	1.8	1.9	2	3
**2. Minimum Pass Rate percentage of total hours successfully completed. (Quantitative) (Measured as Hours Earned/Hours attempted)	67%	67%	70%	70%	75%
3. Maximum Total credit hours/time allowed to complete first academic degree	142% of the specified program length			132% of specified program length	
**Transfer hours count in both number attempted, and number earned					

Monitoring, Evaluation and Notification of Financial Aid Eligibility:

The minimum progress standards will be checked after each payment period or semester of enrollment (fall, spring, and summer). At the end of each semester of enrollment, students must earn the minimum cumulative GPA, minimum number of credit hours (pace), and be within the maximum timeframe (see chart above). At the time of each evaluation, a student who has not achieved the required GPA, or who is not successfully completing his or her educational program at the required pace, is no longer eligible to receive financial assistance under the Title IV programs unless the student is placed on financial aid warning or the student has appealed and has been placed on financial aid probation. Students will receive an email to their Trine email account letting them know of where the deficiency lies and what specific action is required on their part.

Statuses: A student may be assigned to one of the following groups:

Financial Aid Warning

Financial Aid Warning status is meant to inform the student of existing academic problems and provide time for corrective action. The student may continue to receive financial aid for one subsequent enrollment period (semester) under this status despite the determination that the student is not meeting SAP. If the student does not improve this deficiency by the end of the next enrollment period, they are placed on Financial Aid Suspension. A student cannot be on 2 consecutive terms of Financial Aid Warning.

- Certificate programs: As certificate programs are shorter in duration. Students will be placed on academic review at the start of their program and are subject to suspension at the end of the first semester of study for failing to meet the above standards.
- Undergraduate programs: Must be under 48 credit hours attempted at the conclusion of an enrollment period (semester)

Financial Aid Suspension

Financial Aid Suspension status may be assigned to a student if they are not meeting the criteria listed in the chart above. A student who is placed on **Financial Aid Suspension is not eligible for Financial Aid**. In some instances, a student may receive financial aid, but only if they re-establish eligibility by meeting the standards set forth in this policy.

1. Certificate programs: Automatic after first semester if not meeting the above standards.
 - A student in this category has the option to complete a financial aid appeal.
2. Undergraduate Programs:
 - **Previous Financial Aid Warning**- Assigned to an undergraduate program student that is still not meeting SAP following their semester of Financial Aid Warning.
 - A student in this category has the option to complete a financial aid appeal.
 - **Over 48 credit hour Suspension- Automatically** assigned to a student that has attempted 48 or more credit hours and is not meeting SAP, regardless of being placed on Financial Aid Warning before or not.
 - A student in this category has the option to complete a financial aid appeal.
 - **Over 90 credit hour Suspension- Automatically** assigned to a student that has attempted 90 or more credit hours and is not meeting SAP, regardless of being placed on Financial Aid warning before or not.
 - A student in this category does **not** have the option to complete a financial aid appeal.

SAP Appeal Procedures:

If a student is placed on Financial Aid Suspension, the student is not eligible for federal, state, and institutional financial aid. This include grants, scholarships and loans. In some instances, a student on Financial Aid Suspension who has had mitigating circumstances (i.e., death in the family, illness, involuntary military leave, etc.) may request reinstatement of their financial aid eligibility by completing a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form and submitting it to the Financial Aid SAP Appeals Committee. The Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form is available at www.trine.edu/forms. NOTE: Not every student on Financial Aid Suspension is able to appeal. Please refer to the Financial Aid Suspension section for details.

The maximum number of times a student may appeal is:

- Certificate Programs: Once
- Undergraduate Programs: Twice (but not consecutively). For a student to be eligible for the second appeal, the student must have been successful at satisfying the conditions of the first appeal.
- Graduate students: Once

The appeal must be typed and must include the following requirements:

1. Detailed explanation for failure to meet SAP standards for each payment period (semester) the student failed to perform satisfactorily;
2. Documentation to support the reason for failure;
3. A copy of your SAP Academic Plan (through graduation) completed with your advisor.

SAP Appeal Deadlines:

All appeals must be received one week before the start of the semester.

Approval of an appeal results in Financial Aid Probation Status:

Financial Aid Probation status is assigned to a student who has successfully appealed a Financial Aid Suspension and has had eligibility for financial aid reinstated. A student who is placed on financial aid probation may receive limited financial aid for one subsequent payment period (semester). A student on Financial Aid Probation may be required to meet certain terms and conditions while on financial aid probation, such as taking a reduced course load or taking specific courses. A student assigned a Financial Aid Probation status will be placed on a SAP Academic Plan. At the conclusion of the SAP Academic Probation payment period, the student must either meet the SAP standards or fulfill the requirements specified in the SAP Academic Plan to remain eligible for aid in subsequent semesters.

Requirement details:

1. Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) – see Chart A

If you fall below these standards, you will be placed on either a Financial Aid Warning or Suspension depending on your situation.

Certificate

After each semester, a 2.0 cumulative GPA is required.

Undergraduate

After 48 attempted credit hours, you are required to achieve a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Please note that you are also no longer eligible for financial aid or an appeal if you do not have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 and have earned 90 or more credit hours.

Graduate

After each semester, a 3.0 cumulative GPA is required.

2. Cumulative Credit Hour Completion Rate/Pace – see Chart a

○ *Hours Earned/Attempted*

- To earn hours at Trine you will need either a grade of A, B, C, D or S. All other grades will not count towards hours earned but will count towards hours attempted. Note: withdrawing from a course will affect your attempted hours/completion rate. Attempted Hours will include all earned hours, plus W, F, I or U. (All coursework with a “W” (withdrawal) are also counted as attempted, but not completed, regardless of the conditions of the withdrawal)

○ *Repeated Courses*

- If a student repeats a course, both courses count as attempted hours but only one of the grades count as hours earned. Remedial hours will count towards attempted and completed hours but withdraws will only count towards hours attempted.

○ *Transfer/Test Credits*

- Accepted Transfer and Test Credit hours will count as earned and attempted hours but are not factored into the student’s GPA calculation.

○ *Incompletes*

- Incompletes will be counted as attempted hours but won’t count towards hours earned. Those hours will only be counted if the student receives a grade for this course later. It will be the student’s responsibility to inform our office when a grade is posted.

○ *Second Degrees*

- Credit hours applicable to a second degree will be reviewed as transfer hours and counted as hours attempted and earned.

- *Rounding*
 - All calculations will be rounded to the first decimal point using normal rounding rules.

Certificate

You must earn a minimum of 67% of the credit hours you attempted in your first semester. If you fall below this standard, you will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension.

Undergraduate

You must earn a minimum of 67% of the credit hours you attempted in your first year and 70% every semester after your first year. If you fall below this standard, you will be placed on either a Financial Aid Warning or Suspension depending on your situation. At 90 attempted credit hours and above, you will no longer be eligible for financial aid or an appeal if you are unable to meet the pace standards.

Graduate

You must earn a minimum of 75% of the credit hours you attempted throughout the duration of your program.

3. Maximum Time Frame for Degree Completion – see Chart A

If you exceed this maximum timeframe, you are no longer eligible for aid. If you are not on track to complete your degree before your time frame expires you will no longer be eligible for aid. All calculations will be rounded to the first decimal point using normal rounding rules.

- *Change of Majors:*
 - The allowed time frame does not change or increase when you change majors. If you have completed all degree requirements but have not applied to graduate or received the degree, you are still no longer eligible for aid.

Type of Degree	Maximum Credit Hours
Certificate Programs (16-hour program)	23 credit hours
Certificate Programs (19-hour program)	27 credit hours
Associate degree (60-hour program)	85 credit hours
Bachelor’s Degree (120-hour program)	171 credit hours
Bachelor’s Degree (132-hour program)	188 credit hours
Master’s Degree (30-hour program)	40 credit hours
Doctorate Degree (60-hour program)	80 credit hours

Final Remarks:

- Trine’s SAP standards comply with the requirements of the U.S. Department of Education.
- These are financial aid standards and do not replace or override Trine’s academic policies.
- Academic progress will be reviewed at the end of each semester for all students.
- It is your responsibility to stay informed of the University's SAP standards and policy.
- All attempted credit hours are considered toward the maximum time allowance, regardless of whether or not the student received financial aid for those hours.

Questions?

Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 877-294-4878 or onlinefinaid@trine.edu