

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy and Financial Aid Eligibility

FIRST PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS (MS-SLP, MOT, OTD, DPT)

Federal regulations require that, to be eligible for and maintain assistance from any Federal Title IV student aid program, a student must be making satisfactory academic progress toward a certificate or degree. USAHS students must maintain satisfactory progress according to the guidelines herein and complete all certificate and degree requirements in a timely manner. All students are evaluated for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at the end of each trimester.

USAHS Federal Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress

To maintain eligibility for funds, students must maintain both **quantitative (pace)**, and qualitative (**grade-based**) standings and revised at each evaluation point. The SAP policy is consistently applied to all enrolled students (full-time, part-time, first professional, and post professional students), regardless of their use of Title IV funds.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress at USAHS is defined as:

1. Maintaining a minimum GPA (defined by the student's program) at the completion of each trimester and a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) or higher (defined by the student's program).
2. Completion of a program of study within 150% of the average published program length.

Maximum Timeframes

There is a maximum timeframe in which students must graduate. Maximum time frame is 150 percent of the published length of the program as evaluated by the maximum terms.

Academic and Financial Aid Evaluations

The Office of Registrar and Financial Aid reviews a student's Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) (qualitative standing), and "pace" (quantitative standing), which is the ratio of the total credits earned vs. attempted credits after the end of each trimester.

1. FIRST PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS (MS-SLP, MOT, OTD, DPT)

Good Academic Standing, Academic Progression Warning, Probation, Dismissal

Good Academic Standing (MS-SLP, MOT, OTD, DPT)

To remain in good academic standing, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. Maintain at least a cumulative GPA of 2.7 or higher each trimester;
2. Complete program of study within 150% of the published program length; and
3. Complete the program with a cumulative GPA of 2.7 or higher.

Qualitative Evaluation

All students are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.7 on a 4.00 scale at the completion of each trimester.

Failure to meet any of the above criteria results in the following actions:

1. After the first trimester in which a student fails to meet academic standards, the student is placed on **Academic/Financial Aid Warning**. Students who are placed on Academic/Financial Aid Warning are required to meet with their Faculty Advisor to develop an Academic Improvement Plan on how to improve their academic study.
2. If the student fails to meet academic standards at the completion of any subsequent trimester, the student is dismissed and **loses Title IV eligibility**. If the student successfully appeals, the student is placed on **Academic/Financial Aid Probation** and Title IV eligibility is reinstated.
3. If the student does not meet academic standards in any trimester following the trimester on which they are on **Academic/Financial Aid Probation**, the student is **dismissed** from the program and loses Title IV eligibility.

Students who fail to meet the 2.7 GPA for graduation are required to complete remediation independent study courses in which a letter grade is earned to obtain the required 2.7 GPA for completion of degree requirements. Completion of these additional requirements may delay graduation. Remediation independent study courses are not Title IV eligible and incur tuition charges at the student's expense.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Academic/Financial Aid Warning

A student placed on Satisfactory Academic Progress **Academic/Financial Aid Warning** by the Registrar's Office is advised by a Faculty Advisor of the terms of the Academic Improvement Plan and the risk of dismissal. A Title IV student on **Academic/Financial Aid Warning** remains eligible for Title IV for the trimester.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Academic/Financial Aid Probation

A student that has not met the minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements after being placed on Academic/Financial Warning for the trimester is dismissed and loses Title IV eligibility. If the student is dismissed and successfully appeals, Title IV eligibility is reinstated while on **Academic/Financial Aid Probation**. If a student on **Academic/Financial Aid Probation** fails to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress the following trimester, the student is **dismissed** from the program and lose Title IV eligibility.

Reinstatement of Title IV Eligibility

If the Office of Financial Aid approves the appeal, the student is placed on Academic/ Financial Aid Probation for one trimester, and Title IV eligibility is reinstated.

FINANCIAL AID NOTICE

The Office of Financial Aid sends a notice to a Title IV recipient if the recipient fails to meet any of the Academic/Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards (*please remember that all evaluation periods are measured, including ones where the student may not have received financial aid*):

USAHS assigns an **Academic/Financial Aid Warning** to a student who is failing to make satisfactory academic progress. The school reinstates eligibility for aid for one trimester and may do so without a student appeal.

USAHS assigns an **Academic/Financial Aid Probation** to a student who is failing to make satisfactory academic progress and has successfully appealed. Eligibility for aid may be reinstated for one trimester.

Academic Evaluation and Right of Appeal

A student may appeal the dismissal to the Academic Appeals Committee/Program Director (see [Appeals Process - Evaluation & Right of Appeal](#)). If an appeal is successful, a readmission agreement between the student and the Program Director (or Dean) is made that documents the conditions for continuation at the University. Title IV eligibility is reinstated.

Readmission agreements can be appealed only if there are mitigating circumstances and an appeal can be made only to the Chief Academic Officer.

When a student is dismissed or suspended, he or she loses access to campus facilities and resources. Students may visit a campus if they have made an appointment by phone with their Faculty Advisor or Registrar and restrict their activities to that appointment.

Program Level	Program	Program Credit Hours	Cumulative Grade Point Average	Maximum Time Frame to Receive Federal Financial Aid
First Professional	Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology (MS-SLP)	55-58	2.7	8 terms
First Professional	Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT)	93	2.7	9 terms
First Professional	Flex Master of Occupational Therapy (Flex MOT)	93	2.7	14 terms
First Professional	Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD)	117	2.7	12 terms
First Professional	Flex Doctor of Occupational Therapy Flex (Flex OTD)	117	2.7	18 terms
First Professional	Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)	131	2.7	12 terms
First Professional	Flex Doctor of Physical Therapy Flex (Flex DPT)	131	2.7	18 terms