Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy and Procedure for Federal Aid Programs - Associates Degree (61 hours)

The University is required to define and enforce standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to encourage the student to successfully complete courses for which financial aid is received.

Quantitative Progress

- Full-time students are expected to complete associate degree requirements at Ouachita Baptist University/OBU@NLC within 2 years (4 semesters).
- Completion of a minimum of 15-16 credit hours each term is necessary to graduate within that time period. Students will be eligible to receive federal financial aid (all Title IV programs) for up 150% of their degree program’s published length which is defined as 6 semesters or 90 credit hours.
- These limits are prorated for longer periods of time for students enrolled less than full-time. Federal student aid recipients are considered to be making satisfactory progress if they meet the following quantitative requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By the end of the:</th>
<th>Credit Hours Completed if full-time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Academic Year</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Academic Year</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Academic Year</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The number of credit hours completed will be reviewed at the end of the spring semester each academic year.
- Students who fail to meet the minimum standards will be suspended from receiving financial aid until the deficient credit hours are satisfactorily completed. Summer credits may be counted toward meeting requirements for the previous academic year.
- Correspondence courses may also count toward the requirements for the previous academic year provided they are completed (final grade and credit recorded) during that academic year.
- Transfer credits will be counted as part of the cumulative GPA and quantitative progress towards a degree.
- Withdrawals, repetitions, and noncredit remedial courses will not be used to meet course load requirements.
- Students receiving financial aid who reduce their course loads after enrollment must contact OBU Student Financial Services.

Qualitative Progress

- Student aid recipients must also maintain minimum cumulative grade point averages (GPA) consistent with requirements for graduation to remain eligible for aid. These requirements are based upon an escalating scale of cumulative GPA as follows and meet minimum requirements for graduation defined by the university catalog:

  Cumulative gpa of 1.7 (0-15 semester hours)  Cumulative gpa of 1.90 (30.5-45 semester hours)
  Cumulative gpa of 1.8 (15.5-30 semester hours)  Cumulative gpa of 2.00 (45.5-60 semester hours)

- Students are required to achieve a C average by graduation. C average is defined as a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Grade point averages will be reviewed at the end of the spring semester each academic year for continuing aid eligibility. Students must have the required grade point at the end of the term or they will be suspended from receiving financial aid until such time as they have achieved the required GPA.

Federal Aid Suspension & Appeal Process

- Ouachita will review satisfactory academic progress at the end of the spring semester each academic year. Failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress will result in immediate suspension of federal aid eligibility.
- Students who feel that mitigating circumstances (injury, illness, death of relative, special circumstances) prevented them from making satisfactory academic progress may appeal the decision to suspend their financial aid eligibility in writing to the Director of Student Financial Services.
- Written appeal must explain why the student failed to make satisfactory progress and what has changed in the situation that will allow improvement during the subsequent semester.
- A successful appeal will result in student aid eligibility being reinstated and the student being placed on financial aid probation for one payment period. Notification will be provided in writing to the student upon approval or denial of an appeal. An appeal will not be approved beyond one payment period.
- University will review student academic progress for those placed on financial aid probation at the end of one payment period and will fully reinstate aid eligibility if satisfactory progress requirements are being met or suspend federal aid if progress has not been reestablished.
- If students are denied aid because of lack of satisfactory progress, courses must be taken at student’s own expense until minimum number of hours and/or the required GPA has been reached. Once the required number of hours and/or GPA has been attained the student must inform the Director of Student Financial Services in writing for their eligibility to be reinstated.