

**SATISFACTORY PROGRESS POLICY
FOR PROGRAMS MEASURED IN CLOCK HOURS OR COMPETENCIES**

1. Each school must apply, to any student eligible to receive Title IV federal student financial aid, formal standards to measure that student's satisfactory progress toward graduation. The progress standards must comply with applicable Title IV regulations.
2. The satisfactory progress standards must be compiled in writing, and identified as a satisfactory progress policy. The policy must be provided to the public upon request, and given to each student by the first class session.
3. The policy must be applied consistently to all Title IV students enrolled in a specific program and scheduled for a particular category of attendance (part-time/full-time).

The policy may, at the school's option, apply only to Title IV students, provided that the standards of the policy are the same as, or stricter than, those applied to students enrolled in the same program who are not eligible to receive Title IV assistance.

4. The policy must include, at a minimum, the following elements:
 - a. A quantitative component that consists of a maximum time frame in which a student must complete his or her educational program. The time frame must be no longer than 150% of the published length of the educational program measured in academic years, non-standard terms, or clock hours completed.

A leave of absence may extend the student's contract period and maximum time frame by the same number of days in the leave of absence.
 - b. The school must specify which qualitative factors will be evaluated to determine academic progress, using a reasonable system of grades, work projects completed, and/or comparable factors measurable against a norm. The school must establish a grading scale which includes a minimum acceptable level of progress requiring at least the equivalent of a 70% grade average or project completion rate.
 - c. The school shall establish the number of evaluation periods, for students in clock-hour programs that requires an evaluation at least by the mid-point of the academic year.

- d. **Determination of Status** - The policy must specify that only students who maintain satisfactory progress are eligible to receive Title IV assistance. Students who meet the minimum requirements for attendance and academic progress shall be considered to be making satisfactory progress until the next scheduled evaluation.
- e. **Probation (Optional)** - A school may provide that students not meeting the minimum requirements for attendance or academic progress are considered to be making satisfactory progress while on probation.

Schools that choose to use probation must publish in their policy the requirements students must meet to have the probationary status lifted, as well as the length and number of probationary periods allowed.

If during probation students will be deemed eligible to receive Title IV funds, the school's policy must state that the students will be considered to be making satisfactory progress while on probation.
- f. **Reasonable provisions regarding temporary interruptions** must be detailed in the school's policy and must address the status of students re-entering school. For example, it would be unreasonable to place students not making satisfactory progress on a two-week leave of absence and subsequently, upon their return to school, consider them to be making satisfactory progress.
- g. **Course incompletes, repetitions and non-credit remedial courses** generally do not apply to cosmetology or massage schools. If the school has a policy, however, the policy must be stated. Otherwise, the school's policy must state that these items have no effect upon the schools' satisfactory progress standards.
- h. **Appeal Procedure** - A school must establish and publish procedures available to a student to appeal a negative progress determination. Cases of appeals must be documented.
- i. **Reinstatement of Aid** - The policy must outline specific procedures whereby Title IV aid will be reinstated to students who have re-established satisfactory progress status.