

Rock Valley College

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

To comply with U.S. Department of Education and State of Illinois regulations, Rock Valley College (RVC) has established a policy to assess whether students receiving federal or state financial aid are making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward completing their degrees. This SAP Policy outlines the criteria used to determine ongoing eligibility for financial aid. Students who do not attend classes, withdraw from courses, receive deferred grades, or earn unsatisfactory grades may jeopardize their academic progress and lose their financial aid eligibility. Please note that minimum standards may change in response to updates from the Department of Education and the State of Illinois

Minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements

Students must meet ALL of the following criteria to be considered making satisfactory academic progress:

1. Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)

To remain eligible for financial aid, you must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 across all credit courses you've attempted at Rock Valley College (RVC). This applies to all your courses, regardless of whether you received financial aid. Note that developmental or remedial courses don't count toward this GPA. If you repeat a course, only the highest grade you earned will be considered.

2. Cumulative Completion Rate

You need to successfully complete at least 67% of the credit courses you attempt during your time at RVC. Successfully completed courses are those where you earn a grade of 'D' or higher. However, certain grades don't count as completed: F (Failed), I (Incomplete), W (Withdrawn). These grades will count as attempted but not completed, which can affect your overall completion rate.

3. Maximum Time Frame

You must finish your academic program before you attempt more than 150% of the credits required to complete it. To find out the maximum number of credits you can attempt, simply multiply the total credits needed for your program by 150%.

Important Information

All attempted credit hours at RVC will be counted toward Cumulative Completion Rates and Maximum Time Frame requirements. These include:

- Developmental/Remedial Courses
- Repeated Courses
- Withdrawn Courses
- Transfer Courses
- Courses with forgiven grades
- Non-completed courses
- Courses w/ grades of A, B, C, D, F

Eligible students may receive federal financial aid for up to 30 credit hours of developmental/remedial courses.

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Review of Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements

The Financial Aid Office assesses students' cumulative academic records at the end of each semester—fall, spring, and summer—to determine compliance with Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards for financial aid recipients. This review includes all accepted transfer credits. Depending on the outcome of this evaluation, students will be assigned a status that reflects their progress according to the Minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements. Statuses include:

Satisfactory Status

You must be meeting or exceeding the minimum satisfactory academic progress requirements of a cumulative 2.0 GPA and 67% Completion Rate.

Warning Status

The first semester your academic record falls below the minimum academic progress requirements, a Warning status is given as an opportunity for you to regain Satisfactory status. You may receive financial aid funds for one more semester if all other financial aid eligibility requirements are met.

Suspension Status

When you fail to meet the minimum satisfactory academic progress requirements at the end of your warning period you will be placed on Suspension status. You will no longer be eligible to receive financial aid funds without a granted appeal and approved academic plan.

Important Information

If you exceed the Maximum Time Frame requirement, you will be placed in Suspension Status without a warning. Students in this status must complete their current academic program. Changing your program is allowed only under special circumstances with Financial Aid approval.

Appeal Process

Students in Suspension Status can report mitigating circumstances that affected their performance, such as military activation, the death of an immediate family member, or illness. To appeal, please submit an appeal form, relevant documentation, and an academic plan to the Financial Aid Office. The SAP Committee will review all appeals to assess eligibility for an extension of financial aid.

If your appeal is GRANTED you will be placed in Probation status.

Probation Status

Once your appeal is granted, you may receive financial aid for that semester. If you do not meet the minimum academic progress requirements by the end of the semester, you will be placed in Suspension Status and will need to appeal again.

If your appeal is DENIED, you will remain in Suspension Status and be ineligible for financial aid. You can regain eligibility by taking steps to improve your academic standing to meet the minimum satisfactory progress requirements.