

**Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Effective 2011-12

**Eligibility**

In order to be eligible to receive federal Title IV financial aid or veterans benefits, you must complete all of the following.

1. Satisfy all admission requirements of the MCC district which includes sending MCC all academic transcripts from all other post-secondary schools, colleges and universities you have attended.
2. Declare and pursue an educational plan. If you have earned less than 24 credit hours, you may change plans one time. Additional changes must be approved by the Dean of Student Services.
3. The satisfactory academic progress standard must be met at the time of your initial application for financial aid.
4. Transfer students must meet the satisfactory academic progress standards to be eligible for financial aid.
5. Enroll in courses that contribute in at least one of the following ways to your declared educational plan. Courses must be
  - required for your educational plan or are electives which meet specific requirements.
  - those which, in the professional judgment of academic advisors and counselors, contribute to, enhance, or facilitate pursuit of your educational plan.
  - designated in the college catalog as prerequisite to courses required as a condition of acceptance into your program. (You may receive financial aid for no more than 30 credit hours in such courses.)
  - remedial or developmental courses prescribed by a academic advisor or counselor to make up educational deficiencies. (You may receive financial aid for no more than 30 credit hours in such courses.)

Note: Audited courses are not financial aid eligible and are excluded from the satisfactory academic progress calculations.

## **Satisfactory Academic Progress Standard**

In order to continue your eligibility for financial aid, you must make satisfactory academic progress toward your educational plan by maintaining a minimum grade point average and successfully completing a minimum number of courses throughout your enrollment at MCC. Also, you must accomplish your educational plan within a reasonable time. Your progress will be reviewed at the end of each semester.

1. In order to retain eligibility, you must earn and maintain a **2.0** cumulative grade point average. Grade point averages will be calculated according to district policy. Academic exemption, amnesty or forgiveness is not allowed.
2. In order to retain eligibility, you must also maintain a cumulative successful completion rate of 67.00% of courses attempted. Dropped, failed and incomplete courses, and audit courses for which no credit is received, and repeated courses (in which you previously received a passing grade) do not count towards credit hours earned. Rejected transfer hours are excluded from this calculation.
3. You must complete your educational plan in no more than **150%** of the number of credit hours required to finish the program without the repetition of any course.
  - The maximum credit hours permitted for financial aid will be adjusted for approved educational plan changes and for remedial, developmental and prerequisite course work. Your entire academic history will be evaluated when determining the maximum credit hours permitted for financial aid. Courses that were attempted and/or completed toward the approved educational plan change are included when determining the maximum credit hours permitted for financial aid for the new educational plan. Rejected transfer hours are excluded from this calculation.

Note: If you borrow loan funds and fail to successfully complete six credit hours in a regular semester, any subsequent loan disbursements will be cancelled.

### **Financial Aid Warning**

Students previously in good standing who fail to meet the academic progress standard will be allowed one semester of warning. During the warning semester, you will be encouraged and may be required to work closely with academic advisors, counselors or other academic support services staff to improve your academic performance. If at the end of the warning semester you do not meet the standard, your financial aid eligibility will be terminated.

If you fail to meet the academic progress standard at the end of the warning semester because of mitigating circumstances (such as illness, incapacitating injury or death of an immediate family member), you may submit a written appeal with documentation to the Financial Aid Office.

## Disposition After a Successful Appeal

If you are successful in appealing your lack of academic progress, you must meet with an academic advisor or counselor to determine which of the following statuses will be assigned to you:

- Financial Aid Probation for a Final Semester  
If it is determined that it is possible for you to meet the academic progress standard within one semester, you will be granted one final semester of probation during which you can receive financial aid. If you fail to meet the standard at the end of the probationary semester, your financial aid eligibility will be terminated with no further opportunity for appeal.
- Financial Aid Probation While Following an Academic Plan  
If it is determined that it is impossible for you to meet the academic progress standard within one semester, but it is possible to meet the standard by a particular point in time, you will be placed on an individualized Academic Plan and your progress will be strictly monitored. As long as you follow your Academic Plan exactly, your probation will continue. If you do not meet the terms of your Academic Plan in any semester, you will have your financial aid eligibility terminated with no further opportunity for appeal.

## Reestablishment of Eligibility

Once your eligibility has been terminated, you may reestablish your eligibility for financial aid by improving your academic record at your own expense until you once again meet the satisfactory academic progress standard.

## Definitions

- An **educational plan** includes an approved degree or certificate program offered by MCC.
- Credit hours **officially attempted** include the hours for those courses in which you were officially enrolled during any semester. Withdrawn, incomplete and repeated hours are counted as officially attempted and are excluded from your grade point average calculation. Rejected transfer hours are excluded in calculating attempted units.
- Courses **successfully completed** include those in which you have received a grade of A, B, C, D, P, S and CR. Only the final attempt of a repeated course is counted as successfully completed and earned.
- Courses **not successfully completed** include those in which you have received a grade of F, W, U, I and AU.
- Failed courses may be **repeated** until successful completion. Once successfully completed, a course may be repeated only once.