


Understanding Satisfactory Academic Progress

MAP Task Force
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Sue Swisher
Saint Xavier University

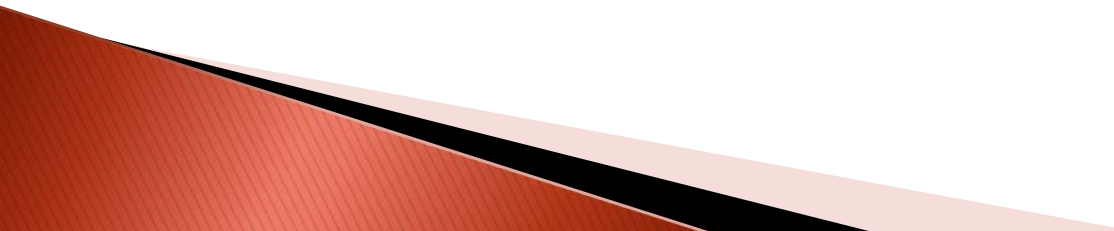
Regulation – 34 CFR 668.34

- ▶ Effective 7/1/2011
 - ▶ Requires schools to have a reasonable standard for measuring a student's progress towards degree or certificate
 - ▶ Describes the required elements of a satisfactory academic progress policy
 - ▶ Retains institutional flexibility to set policy
 - ▶ Allows additional flexibility for institutions that monitor academic progress more frequently than the annual requirement
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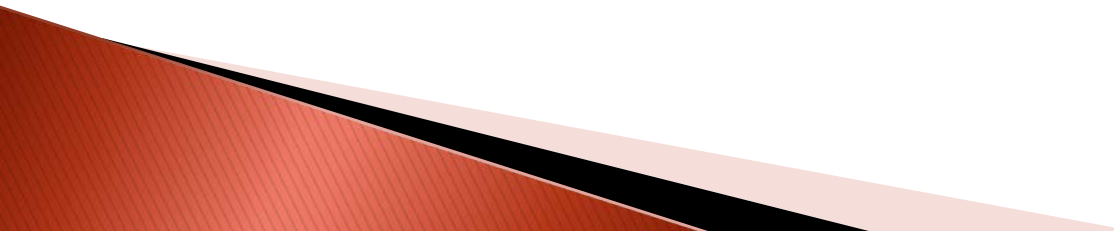
ISAC Administrative Rules for MAP Program

- ▶ Section 2735.20 – Applicant Eligibility
 - A student must maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution

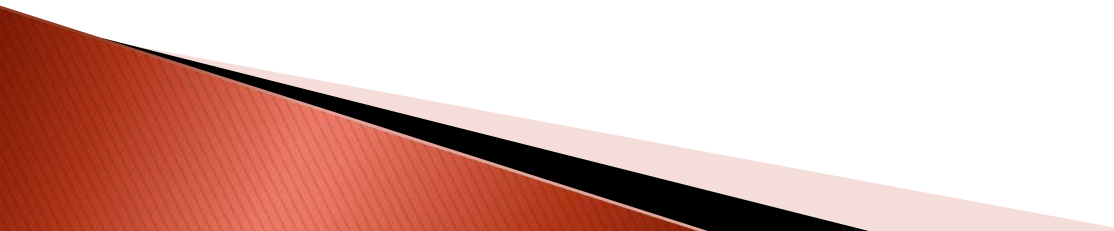
Why were the regulations changed?

- ▶ Last comprehensive review in 1983
 - ▶ Inconsistent terminology was being used by institutions
 - ▶ Excessive use of probation status
 - ▶ Needed to establish a more comprehensive and consistent approach
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What did not change?

- ▶ Policy must be as strict as the policy for students not receiving financial aid
 - ▶ Consistent application must be applied to all students within categories of students
 - ▶ Evaluation based on the length of the academic program and must be performed at least annually
 - ▶ Policy must address the effects of course incompletes, withdrawals and repeated courses
 - ▶ Policy must address the maximum time frame for receiving financial aid
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What did change?

- ▶ Specific GPA requirement
 - ▶ Pace requirement
 - ▶ Treatment of transfer credits
 - ▶ Financial aid warning definition
 - ▶ Financial aid probation definition
 - ▶ Academic plan definition
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GPA Requirement

- ▶ Identify GPA student must achieve at each official evaluation point
- ▶ Policy must address how GPA is affected by:
 - Incompletes
 - Withdrawals
 - Repetitions
 - Transfer credit from other institutions
- ▶ Students enrolled in programs longer than two academic years must have a GPA of at least a 'C' or it's equivalent, or academic standing consistent with the institution's requirements for graduation

Pace Requirement

- ▶ Identify pace of progression to ensure completion within the maximum time frame
- ▶ Policy must address how pace is affected by:
 - Incompletes
 - Withdrawals
 - Repetitions
 - Transfer credit from other institutions
- ▶ Pace calculation as specified in regulation

$$\frac{\text{Cumulative hours completed}}{\text{Cumulative hours attempted}}$$

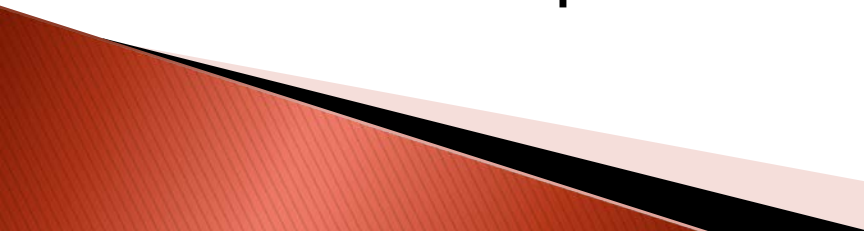
Maximum Time Frame

- ▶ For undergraduate programs, must be no longer than 150% of the published length of the educational program
- ▶ Example:
 - Program requires 120 credits for graduation
 - $150\% \times 120 = 180$ credits
 - Pace calculation
 - $120/180 = 67\%$
 - Student earning 67% of credits attempted is on pace to complete the program within the maximum time frame

Treatment of Transfer Credit

- ▶ Accepted transfer credits count as both attempted and completed hours

Financial Aid Warning

- ▶ Available to students at schools who monitor progress at the end of each payment period
 - ▶ Assigned to students who fail to meet the GPA and/or pace requirement for the first time
 - ▶ Student eligible to receive financial aid for one additional payment period
 - ▶ Status may be assigned without student action or appeal
 - ▶ Status is optional
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Financial Aid Probation

- ▶ Available to students who have failed to meet the GPA and pace requirement at the end of the academic year and have successfully appealed and eligibility has been reinstated
- ▶ Student appeal must address the following:
 - Why the student failed to make progress
 - What has changed that will allow the student to meet academic progress at the next evaluation point
- ▶ Student may receive financial aid for one additional payment period

Academic Plan

- ▶ Available to students who have failed to meet the GPA and pace requirement after financial aid probation
 - Available at all schools
 - A plan that, if followed by the student, specifies the point in time at which the student will be able to meet the institutions standards
 - Student on plan is evaluated against the plan requirements, not regular standards

Evaluation Scenarios

Annual Evaluation

Student enrolls

At completion of first academic year, student fails to meet standard: Student must appeal

Student appeal approved and placed on Financial Aid Probation for one payment period

At the completion of the payment period, student fails to meet the standard: Student must appeal

Student appeal approved and placed on an Academic Plan

Payment Period Evaluation

Student enrolls

Completion of first payment period: Student fails to meet standard

2nd Payment Period: Student placed on Financial Aid Warning

At the completion of the 2nd payment period, student fails to meet standard: Student must appeal

3rd Payment Period: Student appeal approved and placed on Financial Aid Probation for one payment period

At the completion of the 3rd payment period, student fails to meet the standard: Student must appeal

4th Payment Period: Student appeal approved and placed on an Academic Plan

Questions