Regulation – 34 CFR 668.34

- Effective 7/1/2011
- Requires schools to have a reasonable standard for measuring a student's progress towards a 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
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
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
What did change?

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

Cumulative hours completed
Cumulative hours attempted
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
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
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.
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
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

2\textsuperscript{nd} Payment Period: Student placed on Financial Aid Warning

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

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

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

4\textsuperscript{th} Payment Period: Student appeal approved and placed on an Academic Plan
Questions