To be eligible for federal, state, and some types of institutional financial aid, you must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards. The Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAS) office has established guidelines (based on federal regulations) for evaluating your progress, taking into consideration your cumulative KU GPA, the cumulative number of hours you have attempted and completed at KU as well as hours that have successfully transferred from any other postsecondary institution, and the maximum amount of time you are allowed to complete your degree. The financial aid SAP standards are not identical to the academic standards of the university, Graduate Studies, or of any department or professional school. Permission to enroll is not synonymous with financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Graduate/Law students are considered to be meeting SAP standards on their first day of enrollment in a degree-seeking program. Students may continue to receive financial aid while meeting the minimum standards for SAP (see below). Non-degree seeking students are generally ineligible for federal financial aid. If you are a student in the School of Pharmacy PharmD program, please review the SAP information page for pharmacy students, available at affordability.ku.edu/forms. Students in the professional Master of Architecture program should review the undergraduate SAP information page, available at affordability.ku.edu/forms.

**MINIMUM SAP STANDARDS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

- Maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative KU GPA
- Complete your Master’s degree within 7 years of your first day of enrollment
- Complete your Doctoral degree within 8 years of your first day of enrollment
- Successfully complete a minimum of 70% of all hours attempted

**MINIMUM SAP STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENTS**

- Maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative KU GPA (LL.M. Program in Elder Law requires a 2.50 GPA)
- Successfully complete a minimum of 70% of all hours attempted
- Complete your LL.M Program in American Legal Studies within 3 years of your first day of enrollment
- Complete your Juris Doctor (JD) degree within 5 years of your first day of enrollment
- Complete your Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) degree within 8 years of your first day of enrollment

Your academic progress is evaluated each semester. Courses you are enrolled in on or after the first day of classes are reviewed. Courses marked “F,” “incomplete,” “no credit,” “dropped,” “withdrawn,” “no grade,” or “waiting on grade” are considered courses attempted, although not successfully completed. Courses successfully transferred from any other postsecondary institution are calculated as completed courses. Courses academically forgiven or retroactively withdrawn will continue to be evaluated as courses attempted, although not successfully completed.

**EXAMPLE SAP SCENARIOS:**

1. You have attempted 60 hours as a graduate student at KU. Out of the 60 hours attempted, you have successfully completed a total of 38 hours (63% of coursework attempted). You are NOT meeting the minimum SAP standards because you have not successfully completed 70% of your attempted hours.

2. You are a student in the School of Law and it has been four years since your first day of enrollment. You have a 1.8 KU GPA. You are NOT meeting the minimum SAP standards because you have not maintained a 2.0 KU GPA.

3. You are a graduate student working on a Master’s degree and it has been eight years since your first day of enrollment. You have a 3.5 KU GPA. You are NOT meeting the minimum SAP standards because you have surpassed the time allotted to complete your degree.
Note: If you are ineligible for financial aid based on your SAP status, that ineligibility takes precedence over any previous award notification you may have received. If you do not meet the GPA requirement after the first review, you will be placed on Financial Aid Warning status. You may continue to receive financial aid for that semester. If you are not meeting the minimum SAP standards by the end of the next term in which you enroll, you will be ineligible for financial aid (including grants, student loans, and/or Federal Work-Study) in subsequent semesters. You may have the opportunity to appeal for financial aid eligibility.

FINANCIAL AID SAP APPEAL PROCESS

Students who are ineligible for financial aid because they are not meeting the minimum SAP standards but feel they have experienced unique, extenuating circumstances, may appeal for financial aid eligibility as outlined below:

STEP 1 Schedule an appointment with a Financial Aid Counselor to discuss your situation. If there are extenuating circumstances that have caused you to become ineligible for aid, you may be eligible to appeal. If you are eligible to appeal, the Financial Aid Counselor will provide you with the appeal form and instructions on how to complete the appeal process.

STEP 2 Complete and submit the appeal form, with required supporting documents, by the deadline indicated on the appeal form to the Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAS) office. Your written narrative must be typed and complete – this is an opportunity for you to include any letters of support from professors, physicians, etc.

STEP 3 You can anticipate a decision from the Financial Aid Appeals Committee within four weeks, depending on the volume of appeals submitted. Following the review of your appeal, you will be contacted via email. If your appeal is approved, you will be instructed to meet with a Financial Aid Counselor to review and sign your appeal decision letter. If your appeal is denied, the email will include criteria you must meet to be eligible to submit a subsequent appeal. Committee decisions are final and are not subject to further review.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IF I HAVE NEVER RECEIVED FINANCIAL AID OR IF I HAVE ONLY RECEIVED AID FOR A FEW SEMESTERS?
All semesters, including semesters in which you did not receive financial aid, must be included in the review of your Satisfactory Academic Progress.

WHAT DOES THE FINANCIAL AID APPEALS COMMITTEE CONSIDER WHEN REVIEWING AN APPEAL?
The committee reviews each appeal individually, on a case-by-case basis. Written documentation of illness, accident, injury, death of a close family member, or other extenuating circumstances throughout your academic career for which you could not plan, influence, or prevent will be considered carefully. You should include this and other relevant information in your narrative, along with documentation from appropriate third parties (such as a physician, therapist, copies of police reports, etc.).

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY APPEAL IS APPROVED?
The committee will send you an email with instructions to meet with a Financial Aid Counselor to review and sign your appeal decision letter. The appeal decision letter details the criteria you must meet each semester. You will continue to be eligible for financial aid while you are meeting these criteria within the timeframe allowed for you to complete your degree. If you fail to meet the criteria, you must successfully complete a semester on your own (without aid) before submitting a subsequent appeal.

IF MY APPEAL IS DENIED, ARE THERE ANY OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING?
There may be additional funding opportunities for you through the KU Endowment Association Loan Program and/or private/alternative loan programs if you meet the minimum criteria for these funds. You may discuss these options with a Financial Aid Counselor or review the Private/Alternative Loan information sheet at affordability.ku.edu/forms.