

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

In addition to maintaining all general aid requirements, all students receiving Title IV (federal) and state grant funds must maintain satisfactory academic progress in order to continue receiving these funds. Federal law requires that Lander University evaluate all students' academic progress on a regular basis. **Satisfactory Academic Progress evaluations must take into consideration ALL periods of enrollment, including enrollment at another institution and periods in which the student did not receive financial aid.** The Satisfactory Academic Progress standards require that progress must be measured in three distinct ways: quantitatively, qualitatively, and in terms of a time frame. These three methods of evaluation are as follows:

1. Quantitative Evaluation

The quantitative evaluation requires that all students earn a minimum percentage of attempted hours*. The percentage of earned hours is calculated by dividing the number of earned hours by the number of attempted hours (Earned ÷ Attempted = Ratio.) The standard is set so that students may reasonably complete the degree within the required time frame. The minimum standards are outlined below:

Cumulative Hours Earned	Required Ratio
Undergraduate	67%
Graduate	67%

***Attempted hours include Pass/Fail courses, withdrawals, repeated courses, and failed courses. Summer hours are included. Transfer hours and hours for which a student did not receive financial aid are counted. Courses which are dropped during the regular Drop/Add periods and which are not reflected on the academic transcript are not counted.**

2. Qualitative Evaluation

The qualitative evaluation requires that students maintain the minimum acceptable level of academic achievement outlined in the Lander University catalogue. Credits transferred to Lander are not used in computing the student's grade point average. The current minimum acceptable level of academic achievement is provided below:

Cumulative Hours Earned	Cumulative Grade Point Average
0 - 29	1.700
30 - 59	1.900
60 - +	2.000
Graduate	2.000

3. Time Frame Evaluation

The time frame evaluation limits the length of time that undergraduate students can receive federal and state funding to complete degree requirements. An undergraduate student cannot be eligible for federal or state aid after **attempting** more than 187 hours. This standard applies to all undergraduate degree candidates, including second-degree students. See #1 above for a definition of hours counted as attempted hours. Graduate students must complete all degree/graduation requirements within six (6) years of the first date of graduate enrollment. Undergraduate students who are enrolled in a program of study requiring more than 125 hours for completion of the degree may appeal for an extension of the time frame.

Appeals to Satisfactory Academic Progress Decisions

All students who are denied aid due to failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress may appeal in writing to the Office of Financial Aid. Completed appeal forms must be received by the date specified in the notification to the student. If the Office of Financial Aid determines that mitigating circumstances prevented a student from maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress, the student may be allowed to continue eligibility for a specified length of time, usually one year, before re-evaluation.

Students who fail to meet the minimum ratio or GPA standards and meet **ALL** of the following requirements during the warning year may appeal to receive one additional probationary year of aid:

- Successfully completed all the requirements of the Student Academic Success Program; AND
- Earned at least a 2.0 GPA in each term of enrollment; AND
- Earned at least 12 hours per term if enrolled full-time (or all attempted hours if enrolled less than full-time but at least half-time); AND
- Submit a written appeal to the Office of Financial Aid by the specified date.

Students who are interested in participating in the Student Academic Success Program (SASP) should contact the SASP Coordinator in the Academic Support Center at (864)388-8317.

Students who are enrolled in a program that requires more than 125 hours to complete the degree may appeal to receive an extended time frame. The extended time frame may vary depending upon the program length.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Evaluation Procedure

Evaluation is conducted in the summer of each academic year. **Satisfactory Academic Progress evaluations must take into consideration ALL periods of enrollment, including enrollment at another institution and periods in which the student did not receive financial aid.** Students who do not meet the criteria at the end of an academic year will be given a warning (probationary) year to make up deficits. During the warning year, students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Student Academic Success Program (SASP.) Students who fail to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards after the warning year are not eligible for federal aid until such time as they meet the standards. Students who fail to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards will be notified in writing. Information on the appeals process will be included in the notification.

Evaluation for the Time Frame criteria will be conducted during both summer evaluations and at the end of the Drop/Add period during each major semester. During the evaluation at the end of the Drop/Add period, the attempted hours for the current semester will be included in the cumulative attempted hours. Students will be notified if they are not eligible to receive funds in future terms or warned if they are approaching the time frame limits.

This policy supersedes and replaces all prior Satisfactory Academic Progress policies.