SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS – FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Effective July 1, 2011

Satisfactory Academic Progress as monitored by the Committee on Academic Requirements meets the standards mandated by the U.S. Department of Education for federal Title IV funds. Federal Title IV aid programs include:
Federal Pell Grant
Federal Work-Study (FWS)
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
Federal Perkins Loan
Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loan, Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

Satisfactory Academic Progress and the Committee on Academic Requirements

The Committee on Academic Requirements (CAR) meets in December to review faculty alerts for those students who are already known to be failing or will have more than one incomplete. The CAR also meets in January and June to review the previous semester. A student’s record is reviewed by the CAR if any of the following are true:
1. The student received two or more grades of C- or below or the student’s cumulative GPA is below 2.0. (qualitative).
2. The student has two or more grades of incomplete (quantitative and pace). The student will be required to withdraw until they receive a grade for the incompleted.
3. The student earned less than three credits for the semester or less than six credits for the academic year (quantitative and pace).
4. The student is not making progress toward graduation (pace). Progress toward graduation is defined as earning at least six credits by the end of the first year, at least 14 credits by the end of the second year and at least 22 credits by the end of the third year.
5. The student was given a warning or probation after the last semester of the CAR review or is returning from time away.
6. The student does not have a declared major at the end of his junior year.

Financial Aid Warning

A student receiving federal financial aid will receive a financial aid warning if that student was previously in good standing and is now given a warning or put on academic probation for the following semester by the CAR.

The student will receive notification of the financial aid warning status by electronic communication from the Financial Aid Office. The student will receive a letter from the Dean that will outline the standards she must meet in order to regain good standing. Those standards usually are an academic plan that requires the student to earn a C or better in 4 courses and meet regularly with her class Dean.

Financial Aid Probation

If a student given a financial aid warning does not meet the stated requirements at the end of the semester, she is no longer eligible for federal Title IV financial aid. If the student is granted continued
probation by the CAR she may appeal to the Associate Director of Financial Aid for a semester of financial aid probation. The appeal should specify the reasons she failed to make satisfactory academic progress (such as health issues, family crises or other special circumstances) and the changes that have taken place that insure that she can make satisfactory progress in the upcoming semester. The student will be required to earn a C or better in 4 courses during the semester of financial aid probation.

**Required Withdrawal**

One outcome of the CAR is that a student may be asked to withdraw from the College. Please see Section 8.5.3 of the Swarthmore Course Catalog (www.swarthmore.edu/cc_facultyregulations.xml) for the procedures to return to the College.

**Re-establish Federal Financial Aid Eligibility**

A student required to withdraw may apply for readmission by writing to the Dean of Students following the procedures found at Section 8.5.3 of the Swarthmore Course Catalog (www.swarthmore.edu/cc_facultyregulations.xml). The Evaluation committee may approve readmission and federal financial aid eligibility. The student will be on academic and financial aid probation the semester he returns to Swarthmore.

**Maximum Time Frame**

Once a student’s attempted credits exceed 48 credits, he is no longer eligible for federal student aid (maximum time frame). Because of the above standards of progress, this would rarely occur at Swarthmore College.

**GPA and Credit Policies**

The GPA calculation explanation can be found under the “Policies” section of the Registrar’s web page at www.swarthmore.edu/Admin/registrar/.

The CR/NC Policy can be found under the “Policies” section of the Registrar’s web page at www.swarthmore.edu/Admin/registrar/. A course taken CR/NC counts as an attempted credit and a grade of CR counts as a credit earned. CR and NC grades are not included in the GPA calculation.

First Semester and Shadow Grades – The only grades recorded on a student’s official grade record for courses taken during the first semester of the first year are CR and NC (also see above). First-semester students receive written evaluations and grade equivalents from their instructors (shadow grades). The CAR will review shadow grades to identify students who may be experiencing academic difficulty.

Transfer credits or approved credits earned elsewhere are counted as attempted and earned credits. They are not included in the GPA calculation.

The Repeat Course Policy can be found under the “Policies” section of the Registrar’s web page at www.swarthmore.edu/Admin/registrar/.

Withdrawals- A grade of W counts as an attempted credit, does not count as an earned credit and will not be included in the GPA calculation.
An Advanced Placement (AP) credit does not count as an attempted credit and is not included in the GPA calculation. AP credits are counted to determine progress toward graduation.