

2026-2027 Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal

Academic records indicate that, as of the end of the spring term, you have not met one or more of the requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress listed below. Therefore, as defined by U.S. Department of Education regulations, you are no longer eligible to receive financial aid funding until you once again meet these minimum standards of measurement.

Per Federal Regulation, Financial Aid Services is required to perform an annual review of academic progression to ensure that each student who receives federal or state financial aid is academically progressing at a satisfactory rate. SMU has also adopted these minimum standards for all institutional need-based aid programs.

The minimum standards of measurement for evaluating Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) are as follows.

Requirements for Undergraduate Students:

- Successfully complete a **minimum 75% of attempted hours**.
- Successfully complete a program of study in **no more than 12 terms**. (Transfer students must complete in no more than 5 terms)
- Maintain a minimum cumulative SMU **grade point average (GPA)** of **2.000** for Federal, State, and SMU Institutional aid programs.
 - SMU Merit-based scholarship programs each have cumulative GPA requirements that may exceed the 2.000 minimum. Please check with Financial Aid Services if you are unsure of the GPA requirement for your specific scholarship.

Requirements for Graduate Students:

- Successfully complete a **minimum 60% of attempted hours**.
- Earned hours **cannot exceed 150% of the hours required** by the program of study.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative SMU **grade point average (GPA)** of **2.000** for Federal, State, and SMU Institutional aid programs.
 - SMU Merit-based scholarship programs each have cumulative GPA requirements that may exceed the 2.000 minimum. Please check with the Academic department for your specific program of study if you are unsure of the GPA requirement for your specific scholarship.

If you believe there have been specific events or issues, such as health or medical problems, the death of a family member, or extenuating circumstances that may have inhibited your academic performance, we recommend that you submit an appeal for an extension of eligibility. If approved, you will be given one, probationary term of financial aid eligibility to improve your academic performance. At the end of the probationary term, your progress will be re-evaluated to determine whether you are back in good standing regarding Satisfactory Academic Progress.

If you wish to submit an appeal for an extension of eligibility, please read and complete the following pages. For more detailed information on SMU's policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress, please go to the following website.

<https://www.smu.edu/EnrollmentServices/FinancialAid/TypesOfAid/SatisfactoryAcademicProgressRequirements>

If you have any questions regarding SAP or the appeal process, please contact the SMU Mane Desk at manedesk@smu.edu or (214) 768-5555.

Division of Enrollment Services
Student Financial Services

2026-2027 Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal

Student Name _____ SMU ID Number _____

I am submitting this appeal for eligibility to receive aid for the following term (check one):

Fall 2026 _____ Spring 2027 _____ Summer 2027 _____

Federal, State and Institutional regulations prohibit SMU from offering aid based on your current academic progress status. For information on the standards of measurement, please go to the following website:

<http://www.smu.edu/EnrollmentServices/FinancialAid/TypesOfAid/SatisfactoryAcademicProgressRequirements>

If you wish to submit an appeal for a single term extension, you must complete the following steps.

1. **Formal, written letter of explanation:** Must be submitted to Financial Aid Services. This letter must include the following:
 - The circumstances that prevented you from maintaining satisfactory academic progress
 - How you plan to effectively improve your academic performance to once again achieve satisfactory academic progress
2. **Consultation and evaluation by your Academic Advisor:** Your Academic Advisor must approve an academic plan for improvement. The academic plan and the Advisor's statement below must be signed and submitted to Financial Aid Services.
3. **Final Review and Submission of Appeal:** Submit your letter, signed academic plan, and this signed statement to Financial Aid Services. ***(Please note that all of the required documentation must be submitted at the same time.)**

ACADEMIC ADVISOR'S STATEMENT

According to Federal, State, and SMU requirements, the student is not making Satisfactory Academic Progress which has impacted their eligibility to receive federal, state, and institution-based financial assistance. I have advised the student that Financial Aid may be in jeopardy unless these minimum standards of progress are met. I have reviewed and approve of the attached academic plan for improvement.

Number of hours left to complete degree _____ Expected graduation date ____/____/____

Academic Advisor's Signature: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature _____ Date: _____

**Upon receipt of these documents your awarding status will be re-evaluated. If you are awarded for an additional semester, please see your Financial Aid Services at the completion of the term.*

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The following academic plan must be reviewed and approved by the Academic Advisor

Example-Fall 2025			Spring 2026			Summer 2026			
Course	Type	Hours	Course	Type	Hours	Course	Type	Hours	
ECON	1311	3	ECON	1312	3	MATH	1309	3	
			EMIS	1307	3	PHIL	1317	3	
			ENGL	1302	3	PSYC	1300	3	
			PSYC	3380	3	ENGL	1301	3	
			WELL	1101	1				
Total Hours Summer		3	Total Hours Spring		13	Total Hours Sum		12	Total Hours AY
Summer _____			Fall _____			Spring _____			
Total Hours Summer			Total Hours Fall			Total Hours Spring			Total Hours AY
Summer _____			Fall _____			Spring _____			
Total Hours Summer			Total Hours Fall			Total Hours Spring			Total Hours AY
Summer _____			Fall _____			Spring _____			
Total Hours Summer			Total Hours Fall			Total Hours Spring			Total Hours AY

