

## **Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy**

Trinity International University is required by federal regulations to apply both qualitative and quantitative standards when measuring academic progress to determine financial aid eligibility. These standards apply to all students who receive state and federal Title IV funds administered by the University. Federal Title IV programs include Pell Grants and Direct Loans.

Trinity International University has established the following criteria in conjunction with federal regulations published on October 29, 2010, Federal Register Part 668.34 and in the Higher Education Amendments of 1986.

### **1. Qualitative Standards of Academic Progress**

Financial aid recipients are governed by the performance standards of the school or college in which they are enrolled. In order to maintain financial aid eligibility, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 1.6 during the freshman year, 1.8 during the sophomore year and a 2.0 at the start of the junior and senior years.

- Credits transferred in, Incompletes and Course Withdrawal will not count toward the cumulative GPA average.

### **2. Quantitative Standards of Academic Progress or PACE**

Financial aid recipients are expected to complete a degree within 150% of the expected rate of completion. The Department of Education dictates that the student must successfully complete attempted coursework at a specified PACE. PACE is defined as the number of cumulative successfully completed credit hours divided by the cumulative number of credit hours attempted. At TIU, students must achieve a minimum PACE of 67 % in order to complete degree requirements within the maximum timeframe allowed.

- Credit hours transferred in from another institution that are accepted toward the student's educational program must be counted as both attempted and completed hours and must meet the minimum 67% guideline
- Classes taken exclusively at TIU, will be counted in a second, separate calculation, requiring a minimum PACE of 67%. (Students must meet PACE requirements in both this and aforementioned calculations)
- Course Incompletes and Withdrawals will count toward 'hours attempted' and will negatively affect PACE
- Successful retaking of a course may improve PACE, although federal regulations limit a student's eligibility to receive financial aid for retakes to one time, unless student receives a failing grade

### **3. Failure to Meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards**

#### **Financial Aid Warning**

Student records are reviewed after each semester. Students who fail to meet either the qualitative or quantitative standards are placed **on Financial Aid Warning** for one semester. During the semester of Financial Aid Warning, the student continues to be eligible to receive financial aid.

#### **Financial Aid Suspension**

Failure to achieve Satisfactory Academic Progress at the end of the Warning Semester results in **Financial Aid Suspension**. During a period of Financial Aid Suspension, a student is no longer eligible to receive federal or state student aid. Eligibility for financial aid can be regained by again achieving Satisfactory Academic Progress at the student's expense.

#### **Financial Aid Appeal**

Students who fail to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress after the Warning Semester may submit a written appeal to the Director of Financial Aid. Appeal should include:

- Reason the student failed to make Satisfactory Academic Progress
- What has changed in the student's situation that will allow the student to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress at the end of the next semester
- An Academic Plan written by the student's Academic Advisor laying out the specific guidelines/achievements that the student must adhere to in order to improve their Satisfactory Academic Progress. A successful appeal results in one term of Financial Aid Probation and will be reviewed after that semester.

#### **Financial Aid Probation**

A student on Financial Aid Probation may receive federal and state financial aid funds for one semester. At the end of the Probationary semester, the student must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress standards in order to receive financial aid in subsequent semesters. Only one semester of Financial Aid Probation is allowed in a student's academic program unless the approved academic plan specifies an extended period of enrollment.