

FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges is required to establish the minimum standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for all students that apply for and receive financial assistance from the Department of Education, Department of Veterans' Affairs, and/or Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). SAP ensures that students are progressing toward the completion of their financial aid eligible certificate or degree.

The financial assistance programs that require the following standards are:

- ❖ Federal Pell Grant
- ❖ Federal SEOG
- ❖ Federal Work Study
- ❖ Federal Direct Loans
- ❖ Illinois MAP
- ❖ Federal Veterans' Education Benefits

Satisfactory Progress Requirements

Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 668.34 (3), (4), and (5) describe how the grade based (qualitative) and time-based (quantitative) standards should be set. These standards are measured at the end of every payment period, or at the end of every semester, including summer. Students are considered to be meeting SAP if ALL the following conditions are met:

Qualitative Standard: Students must earn a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.0.

Quantitative Standard: Students must prove that they are on track to complete their certificate or degree within the maximum time frame threshold so that all attempted credit hours are less than 150% of the credit hours required for the certificate or degree. Therefore, students must successfully complete two-thirds (67%) of coursework attempted, or the hours earned divided by hours attempted. Review the entire policy and appeal process at www.iecc.edu/financial.

FINANCIAL AID WITHDRAWALS

Students who withdraw from all courses or stop attending courses before the last day of their scheduled courses may be required to repay a portion of financial aid funds received or may have financial aid funds cancelled.

Students earn 100% of their financial aid when they have attended more than 60% of the module or term for which they are scheduled to attend. If students withdraw prior to completing 60% of their scheduled days of attendance, a portion of financial aid has not been earned. This unearned portion is equal to the percentage of the term remaining on the date of withdrawal. Upon notice that a student has withdrawn from all courses, financial aid eligibility will be recalculated based on the actual period of attendance, and students may be asked to repay a portion of the aid that was disbursed.

Determining Last Date of Attendance

If a student officially withdraws from the institution, the last date of attendance is the date s/he begins the withdrawal process, verbally or written.

If a student stops attending classes without initiating the withdrawal process, this is an unofficial withdrawal and the last date of attendance must be determined. Arriving at this date involves a monitoring process whereby class attendance is checked at specific intervals and confirmation by instructors is sought. The attendance checkpoints occur at twenty-five (25) days into the term and at midterm. If a student has ceased to attend all classes at either of these two (2) checkpoints, the last date of attendance/withdrawal date will correspond with the checkpoint date.

At the end of the term, the financial aid office checks for failing grades and unofficial withdrawals that occurred after the midterm. Instructors that awarded a grade of 'F' are required to list the student's last date of attendance. The latest date reported for all 'F' and 'W' grades will be used as the student's last date of attendance.

Disbursing Funds

Upon recalculating a student's financial aid eligibility, one of the following is determined:

- A. The student has a balance.
 1. IECC must return funds within 45 days to the U.S. Department of Education in the following order:
 1. Unsubsidized Direct Stafford loan
 2. Subsidized Direct Stafford loan
 3. Direct PLUS loan
 4. Federal Pell Grant
 5. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
 6. Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant
 2. Upon returning funds to the Department of Education, IECC will notify the student that they owe the institution for the return of aid. Students have 10 days to repay the balance or arrange a payment plan with the Business Office.
- B. The student has a credit balance.

The student will be notified in writing to determine if they would like the aid disbursed to them directly. Disbursing the aid may impact the student's Pell Lifetime Eligibility. If a student is eligible for aid to be paid and there is a balance on the student's account, the aid will be applied to the student's outstanding charges. Disbursements will be made as soon as possible to student accounts and no later than 14 days after the determination the student is a complete withdrawal.

Additional information can be found at www.iecc.edu/financial.