



Northeast MS Community College

Office of Student Financial Aid

Estes Hall

Cunningham Blvd.

Booneville, MS 38829

(662) 720-7437

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

To be eligible for student financial aid, you must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress standards. The Financial Aid Office has established guidelines (based on federal regulations) for evaluating your progress, taking into consideration both your cumulative GPA and the number of hours that you have attempted since you have been in school. The Financial Aid standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress are not exactly the same as the academic standards of the college. Acceptance for admission does not necessarily indicate that Satisfactory Academic Progress guidelines have been met for Financial Aid.

Satisfactory Academic Progress is not measured until a student has attempted 12 hours. Students may continue to receive financial aid while meeting the minimum standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

You must successfully complete a minimum number of hours attempted AND maintain a minimum cumulative GPA to be eligible to receive federal financial aid (see chart below). Federal Financial Aid consists of: Pell Grant, College Work Study, SEOG, LEAP and Student Loans. Your academic progress is reviewed each semester. Classes graded "F", "incomplete", "no credit", "drop", or "withdraw" will be evaluated as courses attempted, although not successfully completed.

Hours Attempted	Percentage Hours Passed	Cumulative GPA
0 - 32	50%	1.50
33 or more	67%	2.00

Example scenarios:

- 1) You have attempted 24 hours during your entire college career. Out of the 24 hours attempted, you have successfully completed a total of 20 (83%) hours. You also have a 2.00 GPA. You are meeting minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress standards.
- 2) You have attempted 48 hours during your entire college career. Out of the 48 hours attempted, you have successfully completed a total of 30 (63%) hours and have a 2.5 GPA. You are **NOT** meeting minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress standards because you have not successfully completed the minimum number of required hours for the number of hours that you have attempted.
- 3) You have attempted 56 hours during your entire college career. Out of the 56 hours attempted, you have successfully completed a total of 40 (71%) hours and have a 1.80 GPA. You are **NOT** meeting minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress standards because you have not maintained the required GPA (2.0) for the number of hours that you have attempted.

If you are denied aid based on your academic progress, that denial takes precedence over any previous award notification you may have received. If you do not meet the minimum standards at the end of a semester, you will be placed on financial aid warning for the next semester. You may continue to receive financial aid for that warning semester. If you are placed on financial aid warning, you will have one academic semester to meet the minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress standards. If you are not meeting minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress standards by the end of your warning semester, you will not be eligible for aid (including grants, student loans, and/or Federal Work-Study) in subsequent semesters and will be placed on suspension.

A student may be given multiple warning periods, however, they may not be consecutive. Consecutive warning periods will result in suspension from Federal Aid.

Maximum Hours Allowed

A student must complete the educational program (major) within 150% of the published length (according to the NEMCC Catalog). For example, a major or program requiring 63 hours for a degree allows a maximum of 94 attempted hours (63 hours X 150% = 94). Once a student exceeds 150% of hours needed to complete the degree, he or she will no longer be eligible for Federal Financial Aid.

Cumulative Record: A student's entire academic record will be evaluated to determine eligibility for financial aid, regardless of whether financial aid was received for all semesters. Transfer credits earned from other colleges that are placed on NEMCC transcript will be included.

Notification of Ineligibility: Attempts to notify all students by mail will be made; however "Tigerline" portal at www.nemcc.edu will serve as official notification of financial aid Tigerline.

Remedial Classes: Developmental studies classes will be treated the same as all the regular classes.

Incomplete Courses: Grades of incomplete are counted as an F until the course is completed and the grade is recorded by the registrar.

Repeat Courses: Repeated courses will count as hours attempted but not hours completed. For enrollment purposes you may only count a repeated course one time *unless* it is for a failed course which you may repeat until passed.

What Are the Steps Involved in Appealing for Financial Aid?

If you become ineligible for financial aid because you are not meeting minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress standards, but feel that unique circumstances exist, you may follow the appeal process outlined below.

STEP 1 Obtain and complete an appeal form from the Financial Aid Office.

STEP 2 Provide a written letter explaining any extenuating circumstances that have caused you to become ineligible for financial aid. Students suspended from financial aid must have a justifiable reason to be reinstated. The most common reasons for reinstatement are for sickness, deaths within the family, disabilities, accidents, hardships, etc. You may also include any third-party documentation to justify your request, such as letters of support from professors, physicians, etc.

STEP 3 Submit the completed appeal form, written letter, and any supporting documentation to the Financial Aid Office. You may expect a decision from the Financial Aid Appeals Committee in 1-2 weeks, depending on the volume of appeals submitted. The Committee decision is emailed/mailed to you and documented in your financial aid file. Committee decisions are final and are not subject to further review.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. What if I've never received financial aid or if I have only received financial aid for a few semesters?

A. All attempted hours, even in terms when you did not receive financial aid, must be included in the review of your academic progress. Credits from other post-secondary institutions that are placed on the NEMCC transcript are included in your cumulative hours attempted and cumulative GPA.

Q. What does the Appeals Committee consider when reviewing an appeal?

A. The Financial Aid Appeals Committee reviews each appeal individually. Written documentation of illness, accident, injury, death of a close family member, or other circumstances that could not be influenced, planned for, or prevented by you will be considered carefully. You should include this information in your written letter, along with copies of documentation from appropriate third parties (such as a physician, therapist, copy of a death certificate, etc).

Q. What happens if my appeal is approved?

A. The Financial Aid Appeals Committee will send an appeal response letter which indicates the term or terms for which you have been approved. If your appeal is approved your required academic plan will be sent with your approval letter. It is the student's responsibility to know their requirements.

Q. If my appeal is denied, are there any other sources of funding?

A. There may be additional funding opportunities for you through alternative loan programs if you meet the minimum criteria for these funds. This option may be discussed with a member of the Financial Aid Staff.