

COKER UNIVERSITY

FINANCIAL AID SAP

In accordance with federal regulations (HEA Sec. 484(c), 34 CFR 668.16(e), 34 CFR 668.32(f), and 34 CFR 668.34), students must maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) in order to receive Federal Title IV aid. Coker University is mandated to deny financial aid to any student that is not in compliance with SAP. The following are Coker University's SAP guidelines for financial aid. Financial Aid SAP is processed during each academic year at the end of each semester, and for each enrollment period for which a student is provisionally approved through an appeal and/or academic plan process.

Financial aid SAP is a separate process from the academic records academic probation and academic suspension processes.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS SAP REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive Federal Title IV aid, the student must comply with the following eligibility requirements.

1. Students must be admitted and enrolled as a degree-seeking student, and take courses required for the chosen degree completion. Only courses required for degree completion for your selected degree program will be eligible for Federal Title IV funds (Pell, SEOG, Work-Study, Direct Loans, Parent PLUS Loans, Perkins Loans, SC Tuition Grant, and Hope, LIFE, or Palmetto Fellows Scholarships). Per 34 CFR 600.2, courses that do not count toward the completion of the student's degree program requirements are not eligible for federal funding.
2. Maintain a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.0 or higher (as outlined in the college catalog under "Continuation Requirements and Classification Probation").
3. Complete at least 67% of the cumulative credit hours attempted during the academic year toward chosen program of enrollment (grades of W, I, and F will be counted as hours attempted).
4. Transfer students must be making SAP at his or her previous college.
5. Students must complete their chosen degree requirements for a single degree within the 150% published length of the program. Coker University requires that students complete 120-degree hours within the student's chosen program—students will have up to 150% of the 120 hours to complete their program for up to 180 attempted credits. All transfer credit hours received by Coker University are included in the total attempted credit hours.

WARNING PERIOD

The SAP warning period allows a student one semester (one term for graduate program students) to make up for any GPA or pace of progression deficiencies. During the SAP warning period the student may continue to receive financial aid without an appeal and/or academic plan. Students are encouraged to work with their advisors, student success coach, and tutors regarding academic challenges and offerings that may help increase the student's success with increasing their GPA and/or pace of progression.

If the student does meet the requirements of obtaining a cumulative GPA of a 2.0 or higher (3.0 or higher for graduate program students), and the pace of progression are not met by the end of the warning period, the student will no longer be considered to be making SAP and will become ineligible for federal and state funding without an approved appeal and/or academic plan.

The one semester (one term for graduate program students) SAP warning period is only available one time throughout the degree program.

FINANCIAL AID PROBATION AND SUSPENSION

1. The student will be considered as not making SAP for Federal Title IV financial aid for one payment period if one or more of the SAP requirements are not met. The student will be required to complete the Financial Aid Appeal process, and if provisionally approved, will be required to follow one or more of the following criteria to be considered for funding for future enrollment periods: make “C’s” or better in all courses; complete courses without incomplete or NC grades; do not withdraw from courses; obtain at least a 2.0 semester/term GPA; and/or complete 100% of attempted hours.
2. If the student does not make SAP under an approved appeal and academic plan, the student’s aid will be placed in suspension status for Federal Title IV aid if SAP is not met during the previously provisionally approved probationary period. If there were mitigating circumstances, the student may contact the Assistant Director of Financial Aid to inquire about completing a second appeal. The student may be requested to complete a new appeal and academic plan to be considered for Federal Title IV funding if it is determined that it would take more than one payment period to achieve SAP. If the academic plan is approved, the student will be placed in probationary status and may be required to make progress with one or more of the following criteria: “C’s” or better’ complete courses without incomplete or NC grades; do not withdraw from courses; complete a defined percentage above 67% of attempted hours; complete the term or semester with a 2.0 or higher GPA; and/or increase their CGPA. If the student does not make progress under the academic plan (i.e., make “C’s” or better’ complete courses without incomplete or NC grades; do not withdraw from courses; complete a defined percentage above 67% of attempted hours; complete the term or semester with a 2.0 or higher GPA; and/or increase their CGPA), they will no longer be eligible for Federal Title IV funding. The academic plan length will be determined during the review progress and will not exceed the maximum program timeframe, but may be active until the student reaches SAP.
3. The student will be placed on suspension for Federal Title IV financial aid if at least 67% of the cumulative credit hours attempted are not completed during the academic calendar year.
4. The student will be placed on suspension for Federal Title IV financial aid when attempted hours exceed 150% of the allowable program credit hours. Attempted hours cannot exceed 180 hours. Transfer hours that count toward the student’s major or program will count in completed and attempted hours.
5. Per the Federal Student Aid Handbook (V1 Student Eligibility 2024-2025, Chapter 1, page 22), “a student that completes the academic requirements for a program but does not yet have a degree is not eligible for further Title IV aid for that program”.
6. The student will be allowed three program changes; however, if a student completes graduation requirements for a previous program, the student must graduate or Federal Title IV aid will no longer be available to the student. All courses attempted and completed will be included with program changes and transfer hours related to the program will be counted hours toward degree progression.
7. Suspension of Federal Title IV aid will continue until SAP has been achieved. Coker requires that a student take courses for one semester and pay for those courses. When the student demonstrates SAP by completing courses toward progression and continually increasing their cumulative grade point average then the student may notify the Office of Financial Aid to review their records and determine Federal Title IV funding reinstatement. Reinstatement of Federal Title IV funding will not be retroactive.
8. Students may repeat courses that were not satisfactorily passed, receiving an “F” grade, if the courses are required for program completion. Only one-course repeat will be eligible for federal funding if the student has previously pass the course; however, if the student repeats a course that they pass and fails the course then the student is not eligible to repeat the course (34 CFR 668.2(b)).
9. Federal Title IV aid is not automatically reinstated when a student regains SAP after a period of financial aid suspension. Student must request the Office of Financial Aid re-evaluate their progress in order to have aid reinstated.

10. The student will not be eligible for financial aid if in academic suspension status.

APPEALS

1. Students can appeal the denial of Federal Title IV financial aid due to lack of SAP. The student would request the appeal documents from the Assistant Director of Financial Aid and provide completed appeal documents and supporting documentation to the Assistant Director by the established deadline dates. The appeal should provide the reason(s) (illness, injury, death of a family member, or other special circumstance) why SAP was not achieved, what has changed that would allow demonstration of progress at next evaluation, and what the student intends to do to regain SAP. Documentation substantiating the reason for the lack of SAP must be provided. The appeal conditions will be, but are not limited to: make “C’s” or better’ complete courses without incomplete grades (“B’s” or better for graduate students); do not withdraw from courses; complete a defined percentage above 67% of attempted hours; complete the term or semester with a 2.0 or higher GPA (3.0 or higher for graduate program students); and/or increase their CGPA.
2. If a student’s appeal documents are approved, but it is determined that the student will require more than one semester or term to achieve SAP, the student will be placed on financial aid probation with an academic plan. As long as the student meets the requirements of the academic plan (subject to maximum timeframe requirements), they will continue to be eligible for Federal Title IV aid. Progress is checked at the end of each payment period, or enrollment period.
3. If the appeal is denied by the Assistant Director of Financial Aid, the student has the right to appeal the decision with the Director of Financial Aid. The Director of Financial Aid makes the final decision if an appeal and/or academic plan is denied by the Assistant Director of Financial Aid.
4. Students can appeal a maximum of one time. If approved with an academic plan, the academic plan is approved for one time.

ACADEMIC PLANS

1. Academic plans can be customized for the student and will dictate conditions that must be met along with the number of semesters or terms allowed to regain financial aid SAP. The academic plan conditions will be, but are not limited to the following criteria during the payment period: make “C’s” or better’ complete courses without incomplete grades (“B’s” or better for graduate students); do not withdraw from courses; complete a defined percentage above 67% of attempted hours; complete the term or semester with a 2.0 or higher GPA (3.0 or higher for graduate program students); and/or increase their CGPA.
2. Academic plans are not indefinite and are subject to maximum timeframe progression.
3. Students may be requested to provide updated academic plans if there is a change in course offerings or program realignments.

UNDERGRADUATE and GRADUATE PROGRAM APPEAL & ACADEMIC PLAN DUE DATES

Deadlines dates are firm and there will be no exceptions.

Fall 2024 Semester	August 1, 2024
Spring 2025 Semester	December 2, 2024
Summer 2025 Term	March 3, 2025

GRADUATE PROGRAM STUDENTS

1. Students must be admitted and enrolled as a degree-seeking student.
2. Students are required to complete courses with a B or better and maintain a 3.0 or higher CGPA.
3. Graduate program students must complete courses as outlined in the college catalog, within 8 terms of continuous enrollment, and for interrupted enrollment 5 years from first enrollment. For the purpose of receiving Federal Title IV funding, students must complete their graduate degree within 150% of the published length of the program. If Coker University requires that students complete 30 degree hours for a graduate program—students will have up to 150% of the 30 hours to complete their program for up to 45 attempted credits. If 33 hours are required then the student will have up to 150% of the 33 hours to complete their program up to 49 hours. If 42 hours are required for a graduate program, then the student will have up to 150% of the 42 hours to complete their program up to 63 hours. If 80 hours are required for a graduate program, then the student will have up to 150% of the 80 hours to complete their program up to 120 hours. All transfer credit hours received by Coker University are included in the total attempted credit hours.
4. If a student receives up to 6.0 credit hours with a “C” grade, then the student may count the 6.0 hours towards graduation. The student will be dismissed from the program if a “C” grade is received for more than 6.0 credit hours.
5. If a student obtains a “D” or “F”, they must retake the course at Coker University. The student will be eligible for Federal Title IV funding to repeat courses passed with a “D” one time provided that the course(s) are required for graduation in the graduate program. Financial aid will pay for one repeated course if the student has failed, until the student passes with a “C” or better and it is a course required for graduation.
6. Students who receive below a “C” will be placed on academic probation and financial aid suspension. The student will be required to complete the Financial Aid Appeal process and if approved the student will be eligible for financial aid for one payment period. The student may be required to complete an academic plan if it is determined that SAP cannot be achieved in one payment period to be considered for Federal Title IV funding. If the academic plan is approved the student may be required to: make “B’s” or better’ complete courses without incomplete or NC grades; do not withdraw from courses; complete a defined percentage above 67% of attempted hours; complete the term or semester with a 3.0 or higher GPA; and/or increase their CGPA. If the student does not make progress after the academic plan, they will no longer be eligible for Federal Title IV funding.
7. The student will be placed on suspension for Federal Title IV aid if SAP is not met during the probationary period.
8. The student will not be eligible for financial aid if in academic suspension status.
9. Suspension of Federal Title IV aid will continue until SAP has been achieved.
10. Per the Federal Student Aid Handbook (V1 Student Eligibility 2024-2025, Chapter 1, page 22), “a student that completes the academic requirements for a program but does not yet have a degree is not eligible for further Title IV aid for that program”.
11. Students can appeal a maximum of one time. If approved with an academic plan, the academic plan is approved for one time.

October 31, 2024