

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Policies and Procedures

AREA: Academic Affairs

NUMBER: Policy 2.30

SUBJECT: Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Eligibility

1. Eligibility for Receiving Financial Aid

Students enrolled at Blue Mountain College may apply for Title IV federal student aid programs to assist them in paying for their college education. Blue Mountain College is committed to assisting students in helping them to meet their educational goals. Eligibility guidelines for the disbursement of this aid are listed below:

- A student must be degree seeking from Blue Mountain College in order to receive federal financial aid.
- A student who is only enrolled in weekend classes while seeking a degree at another institution is not eligible for financial aid at Blue Mountain College.
- A student who is only picking up classes is not eligible for financial aid.
- Blue Mountain College is not liable for a student who changes her/his mind and then transfers into a different program offered at another institution.
- If a person is interested in programs not offered at Blue Mountain College, the student must be enrolled in a degree seeking program at Blue Mountain College in order to receive financial aid.
- Blue Mountain College can offer financial aid to students seeking a degree which is obtained through an affiliation agreement with another institution (such as those students who are Biology and Medical Technology majors at Blue Mountain College.
- Blue Mountain College is providing financial aid, the student is expected to actually be enrolled in classes required to receive his/her declared degree at Blue Mountain College.

Students receiving federal financial aid are required to make satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of their course of study. Failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress could result in the loss of federal student aid.

2. Measuring Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory academic progress is measured in three ways:

- A. Students must progress qualitatively by earning the required number of grade points;

- B. Students must progress quantitatively by completing the required minimum number credits each semester; and
- C. Students must complete their program of study within a reasonable time period.

3. **Qualitative Measure—Minimum Cumulative GPA**

The Financial Aid Office strictly adheres to the academic standards (see Policy 2.18) established by Blue Mountain College as printed in the *Blue Mountain College Catalog*. These standards will also be used to measure a student's academic progress for financial aid purposes. Grade point averages are based solely on courses taken at Blue Mountain College. The satisfactory academic progress of students will be monitored at the end of each semester.

The following are descriptions of financial aid standings:

- A. **FINANCIAL AID GOOD STANDING**—A student who is in academic good standing or on academic warning is eligible to receive financial aid.
- B. **FINANCIAL AID PROBATION**—A student on academic probation is placed on financial aid probation and is eligible for financial aid for one full semester or equivalent. (12 hours)
- C. **FINANCIAL AID SUSPENSION**—A student who remains on academic probation will be placed on financial aid suspension and is not eligible for financial aid. A student who has served an academic suspension period will continue on financial aid suspension until a status of good standing is met.

4. **Quantitative Measure**

- A. Degree Programs

All students who are receiving financial aid must satisfactorily complete 66% of financial aid hours* in each semester or term. Otherwise, the student will go on financial aid probation. If a student remains on financial aid probation one semester or term, the student is placed on financial aid suspension and is ineligible to receive financial aid. Withdrawing from courses or dropping courses may affect a student's financial aid eligibility.

- B. Certificate/Licensure/Prerequisite Courses

In addition to courses taken in undergraduate degree programs, undergraduate courses taken as a component of a certificate/licensure program or as prerequisites may be counted toward financial aid eligibility.

- C. Audit Courses

If the initial registration status of a course is "audit," it is not counted in determining eligibility for financial aid.

5. **Maximum Time Frame**

To remain eligible to receive financial aid, students must complete their degree requirements within 150% of the published length of their academic program. In most cases students will be eligible to receive financial aid during the first 180 financial aid hours* as an undergraduate, whether or not they received financial aid or whether or not the course work was successfully completed. This includes both college and transfer hours. A student will be placed on financial aid suspension if his/her coursework is in excess of 180 financial aid hours.

Students transferring into Blue Mountain College are considered to be maintaining satisfactory academic progress. Hours transferred and accepted for credit toward the student's graduation requirement from prior schools will be considered when determining the maximum number of hours allowed to receive financial aid.

6. **Appeals Process**

Students who have had their financial aid suspended may appeal their suspension. Appeals may be considered if a student's failure to comply with any area of the policy is due to events beyond the student's control, such as the student's extended illness, illness or death of an immediate family member, or any other significant life experience that affected the student's emotional and/or physical health. The student must submit a written appeal to the Financial Aid Office. This appeal will be evaluated by the Financial Aid Review Committee. The student will be notified of his/her eligibility or ineligibility for continued financial aid.

7. **Financial Aid for Graduate Students**

Students enrolled in a graduate degree program at Blue Mountain College may receive financial aid up to their level of eligibility.

**Financial aid hours* refer to hours in which a student is enrolled on the last day to ADD A CLASS.