

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 student financial aid 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. To be eligible for student financial aid a student must make satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of their course study. Failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress will result in the loss of federal student aid. Financial aid standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress are not exactly the same as the academic standards of the College. Permission to enroll does not equal financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. 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.

In order to meet the minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress standards a student must:

- Be degree seeking from Blue Mountain College
- Successfully complete a minimum of 66% of their cumulative attempted hours*
- Maintain a minimum Blue Mountain College GPA
 - ▶ If a student has completed between 0-29 hours they must maintain a minimum 1.5 BMC GPA. [Cross reference with Policy 2.18: Academic Standards.]
 - ▶ If a student has completed 30 or more hours they must maintain a minimum of 2.0 BMC GPA. [Cross reference with Policy 2.18: Academic Standards.]
- Complete 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 attempted hours* as an undergraduate whether or not they received financial aid or whether or not the course work was successfully completed.

2. Financial Aid Standing Definitions

The Office of Financial Aid strictly adheres to the academic standards established by Blue Mountain College as printed in the *Blue Mountain College Catalog*. [Cross reference with Policy 2.18: Academic Standards.] These standards are used to measure a student's academic progress for financial aid purposes.

Definitions:

Financial Aid Good Standing - A student who is meeting the minimum standards as stated above and is eligible for financial aid.

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Initial Financial Aid Probation - A student who is not meeting the minimum standards stated above and is eligible for financial aid typically for only one more semester.

Continued Financial Aid Probation - A student who was placed on financial aid suspension and appealed this status and has been approved to receive financial aid under very specific conditions set forth in the appeal approval.

Financial Aid Suspension - A student who is not meeting the minimum standards as stated above and is ineligible for financial aid.

3. **Measuring Satisfactory Academic Progress**

The Office of Financial Aid at Blue Mountain College has established guidelines (based on federal regulations) for evaluating progress, taking in consideration both cumulative BMC GPA and the cumulative number of hours* a student has attempted throughout their college career.

4. **Appeals Process**

Students who have had their financial aid suspended may appeal their suspension. [Cross reference with PROCEDURES to Policy 4.15: Student Complaints.]

5. **Changing Major**

In most cases, all transfer hours attempted will be counted toward the overall maximum allowable limit. Changing majors may have an impact on eligibility for financial aid. It may be possible to exclude in the calculation of a student's academic standing the credits and grades earned that do not count toward a new major.

6. **Additional Undergraduate Degrees**

Students seeking a second or subsequent undergraduate degree may be eligible for federal financial aid for a maximum of 234 attempted hours*, including all undergraduate and graduate hours attempted.

7. **Financial Aid for Graduate Students**

Graduate students are considered to be making Satisfactory Academic Progress when they have been admitted to a graduate program and will continue to receive financial aid while meeting the academic standards set by their department. Students enrolled in a graduate degree program at Blue Mountain College may receive financial aid up to their level of eligibility.

8. **Non-Degree/Certification**

Non-degree seeking students are generally not eligible for financial aid. An appointment with the Director of Financial Aid is required to determine eligibility.

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

SOURCE: Board of Trustees: February 25, 2011 [Editorial Change]; February 29, 2008; November 27, 2006; June 19, 2006; October 04, 2002; February 22, 2002