Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Policy for Financial Aid Applicants

Federal regulations (General Provision CRF 668.1) require that Cornell University review the academic progress of students who apply for and/or receive financial assistance. Satisfactory academic progress is comprised of three areas as required by federal regulations. A student must complete their degree within a specified period, demonstrate they are making progress towards the completion of their degree by earning a minimum number of credits hours each semester, and achieve a GPA that is consistent with meeting graduation requirements. This regulation applies to each financial aid applicant, whether a previous recipient or not.

This policy on satisfactory academic progress relates to Johnson students who apply for and/or receive federal financial aid. In addition to meeting the standard for receiving financial aid, students must also meet the academic standards for their specific MBA program.

Evaluation

Evaluation of Satisfactory Academic Progress will be made at the end of each term by Johnson Financial Aid Office once grades are posted for the 1 year MBA and at the end of the academic year for 2 year MBA and Executive MBA programs. This evaluation is completed through a review of grades received, courses attempted, progress towards completing the program/graduate degree and GPA.

Students will be notified via their Cornell email account if they have been placed on SAP warning.

Required Completion Rate

Federal regulations require that a student make steady progress toward degree completion by earning a minimum number of credit hours each semester.

Required Grade Point Averages

Federal regulations require the student to meet minimum cumulative GPA standards to retain eligibility for aid. A student must attain a C average, or an academic standard consistent with the graduation requirements for your degree. For the purposes of this regulation, the Degree GPA will be used.

Failing to Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students failing to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress standards will lose their financial aid eligibility. They will be notified in writing of their status by the Johnson Financial Aid Office.

Students terminated from receiving financial aid can reestablish eligibility by successfully completing the required number of credit hours and by attaining the overall required grade point average by the end of the next semester. Neither paying for one’s classes nor sitting out a semester is sufficient to reestablish the financial aid eligibility of a student who has failed to meet SAP. If a special or unusual circumstance contributed to a student’s lack of satisfactory academic progress, the student may appeal the denial of financial aid.
Appeal Process

The letter of denial from the Johnson Financial Aid Office will describe the appeal process and a link to the appeal form will be provided. Examples of special or unusual circumstances are a personal injury or illness, death of a relative, or other circumstances as determined by Johnson Registrar. The appeal must explain how the special or unusual circumstances have been resolved so that the student will now be able to complete the required number of credit hours or attain the required grade point average.

The appeal must be submitted to Johnson Registrar for evaluation. You will receive a responds to the appeal in writing within two weeks of receiving the complete appeal.

If the appeal is approved, the student's financial aid will be reinstated for one semester. By the end of that semester, the student must have successfully completed the required number of credit hours and attained the overall required grade point average. Students who fail to make SAP by the end of that semester will have their future financial aid eligibility terminated.

Federal regulations prevent a student from submitting an appeal two semesters in a row. However, there is no limit to the number of appeals a student can submit if they can document there are new circumstances preventing the student from making SAP.