

Satisfactory Academic Progress

To remain in good academic standing students must continue to make satisfactory progress toward their degrees. To make satisfactory academic progress (SAP), graduate students are required to

- maintain a cumulative graduate GPA ≥ 3.00
- exclusively receive final grades of A, B, C, P or S in all course work
- secure a permanent advisor
- pass all comprehensive examinations and final defenses attempted
- meet all program requirements in a timely fashion
- follow all VCU Graduate School, School of Dentistry and program guidelines

Unsatisfactory student performance includes:

- the assignment of a grade of "U" or "D" "I" or "F" in any course
- failure to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater
- failure to pass the written or oral comprehensive examination
- failure to pass the final examination
- failure to secure a major adviser, failure of comprehensive exams, lack of progress on/unsuccessful defense of thesis/dissertation

A student deemed to not be making satisfactory academic progress will be reviewed by the PD to determine whether they can realistically complete their program of study within the required timeframe and to the required standard. The PD will convene a meeting with the student to discuss

- the expectations for SAP
- why the student is not making SAP
- what the student needs to do to make SAP
- the expected target date for the student returning to SAP
- the possible consequences to the student of not returning to SAP by the target date

A student whose performance is unsatisfactory must obtain the approval of the PD to continue in the graduate program.

Typically, the target date for returning to SAP should be the end of the semester in which the student is notified, but many factors inform the target date and therefore other target dates might be appropriate. A student who does not return to SAP by the expected target date will be reviewed again. If the student does not have a realistic path to degree completion, they may be dismissed from the program.

Unsatisfactory performance constitutes grounds for the termination of financial assistance to the student and may result in dismissal from the program. Please consult the graduate bulletin for more details on satisfactory academic progress.