

# Financial Aid Information & Policies

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Hastings College seeks to provide its high-quality education at a moderate cost. The annual tuition each student pays covers only a percentage of the total cost expended by Hastings College to educate that student. Hastings College maintains scholarship funds to assist needy and talented students. If scholarships and financial aid do not cover the total direct charges, the College has the expectation that parents have the primary responsibility to cover these charges, while students contributing their own savings, including borrowing federally sponsored student loans, have a secondary responsibility. Hastings College cannot meet the need of every student and makes every effort through its institutional scholarship program to make Hastings College affordable. The College's institutional scholarships are available for Fall and Spring terms.

# Type of Financial Aid Available

There are several types of financial assistance available to students. Information regarding the different types of aid available, how you apply, the deadlines for application, as well as any criteria that determines the amount of financial and continued eligibility for receiving the aid are outlined below under each type of aid.

### **Federal Aid**

Hastings College participates in the following Title IV programs: Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Direct Student Loans, Federal PLUS loan and the Federal TEACH Grant. In order to qualify for all Federal Aid programs, students must do the following:

- Complete the <u>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</u> (FAFSA) application. We recommend completing
  the FAFSA application by May 1st, prior to an August start. The FAFSA will provide each applicant with
  an <u>Expected Family Contribution</u> (EFC), which is then used to determine a student's eligibility for
  need-based Federal aid when combined with the student's <u>Cost of Attendance</u> (COA).
- The FAFSA should be filed every year to determine eligibility.
- All Title IV deadlines for eligibility, awarding, and disbursement of funds are followed as set by the Department of Education.

Each type of federal aid is outlined below along with additional information regarding each program.

### **Federal Grants**

Federal grants include assistance available from the federal government that is not required to be paid back. Students must complete a FAFSA each year to be eligible for federal grants.

- <u>Federal Pell Grant</u>: The amount of PELL is determined by financial need as demonstrated through the FAFSA <u>each year</u> and a student's enrollment status (i.e., full-time vs half time).
  - The current minimum PELL award is \$650 and the current maximum PELL award is \$6,895.
- <u>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant</u>: This grant is available to students to demonstrate exceptional financial need based on the FAFSA.
  - The current FSEOG award for full time enrollment is \$400/year and \$200/year for half time enrollment.
- <u>Federal TEACH grant</u>: The TEACH grant is a non-need based grant. The Department of Education has a
  required <u>application and counseling</u> that Hastings College requires to be completed annually. Hastings
  College also requires that eligible students must be formally admitted into the Teacher Education
  Department in an approved endorsement, high-need qualifying field.



#### Federal Loans

Federal loans include assistance from the federal government that is required to be paid back by the borrower. Before borrowing any federal loans, students and parents should be fully informed regarding each of the <a href="Federal Loan Programs">Federal Loan Programs</a>, including <a href="interest rates">interest rates</a> and information regarding their <a href="repayment">repayment</a>. The <a href="Federal Loan Simulator">Federal Loan Simulator</a> allows a borrower to get an early look at estimates on amounts and options regarding repayment plans, including monthly and overall payment amounts.

- Federal Direct Loans: Direct Loans come in need-based (subsidized) and non need-based (unsubsidized) loans, both of which are determined by EFC (Expected Family Contribution) and COA (Cost of Attendance). Hastings College requires active confirmation within Financial Aid Portal. To qualify, students must be enrolled at least half time. These loans are subject to annual and aggregate maximums (i.e., only so much is available to be borrowed each year and in total). For first time borrowers at Hastings College, students who have accepted a student loan in Financial Aid Portal must complete <a href="Direct Loan Entrance Counseling">Direct Loan Entrance Counseling</a> and a <a href="Direct Loan Master Promissory Note">Direct Loan Entrance Counseling</a> and a <a href="Direct Loan Master Promissory Note">Direct Loan Entrance Counseling</a> and a <a href="Direct Loan Master Promissory Note">Direct Loan Entrance Counseling</a> and a <a href="Direct Loan Master Promissory Note">Direct Loan Entrance Counseling</a> and a <a href="Direct Loan Master Promissory Note">Direct Loan Entrance Counseling</a> and a <a href="Direct Loan Master Promissory Note">Direct Loan Entrance Counseling</a> and a <a href="Direct Loan Master Promissory Note">Direct Loan Entrance Counseling</a> and a <a href="Direct Loan Master Promissory Note">Direct Loan Entrance Counseling</a> and a <a href="Direct Loan Master Promissory Note">Direct Loan Entrance Counseling</a> and a <a href="Direct Loan Master Promissory Note">Direct Loan Entrance Counseling</a> and a <a href="Direct Loan Master Promissory Note">Direct Loan Entrance Counseling</a> and a <a href="Direct Loan Master Promissory Note">Direct Loan Master Promissory Note</a>.
  - A Subsidized Federal Direct Loan's interest is subsidized by the taxpayer for borrowers enrolled at least half time and for a 6-month grace period after the borrower ceases at least half time enrollment (either by graduating or withdrawing).
  - o An Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan's interest paid by the borrower while enrolled in school.
- <u>Federal PLUS Loan</u>: The PLUS loan is a parent loan that can be used to help with the cost of attending
  Hastings College. The Department of Education requires completion of an annual <u>application</u> and, if
  approved, a <u>PLUS Master Promissory Note</u>. A parent can borrow up to the COA. The Hastings College
  Financial Aid Office encourages FERPA-approved parents to contact our office if they have questions
  about how much can be borrowed to cover the direct charges vs the maximum amount.

For student recipients of the federal direct loan program, upon notification of a withdrawal or graduation, the Financial Aid Office will communicate via email information about completing <a href="Direct Loan Exit Counseling">Direct Loan Exit Counseling</a>. This will begin during the last term of attendance (if graduating) or typically within a few weeks of an official withdrawal. If not completed, two email reminders will be sent and a final physical letter reminder will be sent to the student's permanent address on file. Some students do not complete a formal withdrawal form but do not continue to attend. These dropouts are identified the following semester and are then emailed instructions on completing the exit counseling process.

Hastings College utilizes <u>Grace Counseling Outreach</u> - a service provided by Inceptia. This service is used to help connect with borrowers about the repayment process and educates them on their repayment and repayment options during the critical grace period.

#### State Aid

Hastings College receives annual funding from the Nebraska Coordinating Commission in order to provide financial assistance to students demonstrating financial need. The Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG) is a need-based grant. To qualify, students must file the FAFSA, have an eligible EFC (determined by the State of Nebraska annually), be a legal resident of the state of Nebraska, and have financial need according to Hastings College's financial aid matrix. Nebraska Opportunity grants will automatically renew as long as the student files the FAFSA and continues to meet eligibility requirements. In order to qualify for State Aid, students must do the following:

• Complete the <u>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</u> (FAFSA) application. We recommend completing the FAFSA application by May 1st, prior to an August start. The FAFSA will provide each applicant with



an <u>Expected Family Contribution</u> (EFC), which is then used to determine a student's eligibility for need-based Federal aid when combined with the student's Cost of Attendance (COA).

- The FAFSA should be filed every year to determine eligibility.
- All Title IV deadlines for eligibility, awarding, and disbursement of funds are followed as set by the Department of Education.

### Institutional Aid

The Hastings College <u>application for admission</u> is required to determine eligibility for all types of institutional aid from Hastings College. All Hastings College students receive institutional aid to help make attending Hastings College more affordable. There are several types of institutional aid available to our students:

- Merit-based academic scholarships: Merit scholarships are awarded based on high school or transfer GPA; current award amounts can be found on the Hastings College website. Merit scholarships automatically renew each year.
- Departmental scholarships: Applicants can speak to their admissions counselor to learn more about departmental scholarship opportunities. Faculty members or a scholarship committee typically determine the recipients of these scholarships, and they are typically renewed each year.
- <u>Need-based scholarships</u> are awarded to students based on financial need as determined by the FAFSA and personal or family circumstances. Need-based scholarships are renewable as long as financial need is demonstrated.
- <u>Talent-based scholarships</u>: There are lots of opportunities for our students to receive scholarships based on their talents and willingness to share their talents with the campus community. The first step in applying for any talent-based scholarships is to complete the application for admission. Talent-based scholarships automatically renew each as long as the student continues participation in the activity.

Although there is no deadline to apply to Hastings College, we strongly encourage applying for admission by May 1st for the best scholarship consideration.

### **Outside Sources of Aid**

Many Hastings College students qualify for scholarships that are from outside entities (e.g., outside of the federal or state governments or Hastings College). Primary sources often include, but are not limited to, the following: a student's high school, local business, churches, charitable foundations, etc. These scholarships are sometimes renewable. We encourage all students to seek out additional outside scholarship opportunities. We keep a list that is often updated under OurHC under *Financial Aid/Student Accounts* → *Outside Scholarships*.



# Financial Aid Offers

All institutional financial aid will be renewed annually provided the student is meeting the renewal requirements. Institutional merit scholarships and institutional need-based grants are renewed for any student eligible to return.

Talent scholarships are renewed based on the requirements of the athletic team or activity sponsor. All new applicants should submit the Hastings College Application for Admission and Financial Aid. Students applying for federal and state aid must also submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Award preference will be given to those FAFSA forms processed and received by the Financial Aid Office prior to April 1.

Returning students will be sent a notification to their Hastings College email address when their award letter, for the following year, is ready to be viewed and accepted. Students will log in to their financial aid portal to confirm their awards.

Incoming students will be mailed an award letter with instructions on how to confirm their award in their financial aid portal.

Changes in enrollment status, financial status, residence or marital status should be reported to the financial aid office. The amount of institutional financial aid is based on full-time enrollment status. Changes in enrollment status after the original award was presented may result in changes in eligibility. If a student is in their last semester before graduation, institutional scholarships will be prorated.

The entire financial aid award may be voided if intentional false information is provided on the FAFSA. A student's financial offer can be reviewed and possibly changed due to unforeseen or special circumstances. Examples include, but are not limited to, death of a parent or spouse, job loss or job change, one time distribution of income, etc.

# Basic Responsibilities for Students Financial Aid Recipients

- Finish financial aid applications (FAFSA and/or Hastings College Application for Admission and Financial Aid) on time and honestly. Intentional false statements or misinformation on any application or supporting documentation may subject the FAFSA filer to a fine or imprisonment, or both, under provisions of the U.S. Criminal Code.
- 2. Understand the deadlines each year for renewing financial aid.
- 3. Understand and follow the policy for Satisfactory Academic Progress.
- 4. Understand and review your billing statement. If it does not show financial aid that you have accepted in your financial aid portal or is missing from your financial aid award, call or email the financial aid office to determine if there are missing documents or another reason why your financial aid is not ready to be disbursed to the Business Office.

### **Federal Verification Process**

Students can be selected for a process called verification by the Central Processing System or by Hastings College if conflicting information is found. How a student is notified about verification selection and if there are any changes to their financial aid offer differs between returning students and incoming students and also the time of year.



- Returning students: The notification process for verification typically begins after January 1st for the upcoming academic year. Students will be notified via email of the required documents and through Financial Aid Portal can access the hyperlinks to documents and instructions. Paper forms are also available for pick up in the Financial Aid Office. Financial aid offers will not be available until students have completed the verification process. Reminders will be sent typically every 2-3 weeks until completion. Hastings College recommends completion by the first day of classes, however, all Title IV verification deadlines per federal regulations are followed. Once verification is completed, a returning student will be sent a financial aid offer which can be viewed in Financial Aid Portal.
- Incoming students: The notification process for verification typically begins after January 1st for the
  upcoming academic year. Only students that have received a financial aid offer will be notified via email
  of the required documents. Documents are available on the Financial Aid Office's Forms page.
   Reminders will be sent typically every 2-3 weeks until completion. If a student has received a financial
  aid offer, they will be notified with a revised financial aid offer if updates based on documents submitted
  were made that changed their federal aid or institutional award.

#### **Disbursement Process**

Disbursement of institutional, federal, and state aid will occur after the add/drop deadline of a student's first enrolled block of each semester. Funds are disbursed to Student Accounts by the Financial Aid Office. Funds that are not eligible for disbursement in this way include Federal Work Study, some remission programs, and outside sources that were reported as given directly to the student.



# Institutional Charges - Refund Policy

The following principles will be observed in regard to requests for refunds of institutional charges (tuition, fees, room and board) for both full-time and part-time students who withdraw from the institution or who have a status change from full-time to part-time. If federal financial aid has been credited to a student's account, the student may have to pay back all or part of the federal aid, depending on the amount of aid earned at the time of withdrawal.

Refunds will be based on the full term's institutional charges. The following refund schedule will apply.

Through the 1st day of class	100%
2nd day of class through 15 class days	75%
After 15 class days	No refund

This policy applies to all students even if they are not enrolled in block 1 or block 4.

Summer blocks follow the policy above but for each block, not as a combined semester.

The following principles will be observed in regard to institutional charges (tuition and fees) for full-time students who withdraw from or reduce participation in any Cooperative Academic Program including, but not limited to, the UNO/UNMC and CCC programs.

Students in Cooperative Academic Programs need to be fully informed of that institution's billing and refund policy. In order to avoid charges being applied to your Hastings College account, withdrawals or status changes need to occur in the timelines outlined in the Cooperative Academic Programs (i.e. UNO, UNMC or CCC) Refund Policies. Students are also responsible for notifying Hastings College Registrar and Student Accounts of any changes to their enrollment status at any of the above institutions so they are aware of any changes that may happen to their account.

If payment has been made by Hastings College to an institution noted above (UNO, UNMC or CCC) on behalf of a Hastings College student enrolled at one of those institutions and that student has a status change in the course(s) at that institution, the student will have to pay back all of the cost incurred by Hastings College based on when they withdrew and the Refund Policies of the Cooperative Academic Program institution they are enrolled at. What Hastings College is charged will be the charge reflected on your Hastings College student account.

Successful completion of a course(s), which is defined as receipt of a letter grade or Pass/Fail, ensures that Hastings College will pay for the course on behalf of the enrolled student. Withdrawing from a course(s) and earning a "W" or withdrawing and not earning a "W" will result in the full cost paid by Hastings College being placed on the students Hastings College student account.

In the event a student receives an "Incomplete" in a course(s), the charges paid on the students' behalf by Hastings College will be applied to their student account and will be reversed once successful completion of the course has been noted by the Registrar. Should that course not be completed, those charges will remain on



the student account. The Financial Responsibility Agreement can be found in OurHC under Student Accounts and Financial Aid.

## Billing Changes due to Enrollment Status Changing

Hastings College is a semester school for billing and financial aid purposes, offering 'blocks' within each semester. Students are encouraged to register for the **semester** and not just individual blocks. Changes in enrollment status can create potential changes to a student's bill. Below is a scenario and the outcome of an enrollment change:

• Student is full time at the beginning of the semester, but becomes a part time student on or after the 16th class day of the semester: student is billed as a full time student and receives their Hastings College institutional financial aid. Title IV aid rules apply and federal aid may need to be returned to the Department of Education.

Students are strongly encouraged to reach out to the Financial Aid Office, Student Accounts and Registrar's Office before making changes to their enrollment status. In addition to financial aid and billing changes, athletic eligibility and housing policies may be impacted.

## Return of Title IV Aid Policy & Calculation (R2T4) Under Block Scheduling

When a student withdraws or is expelled prior to attending all of the blocks during a semester for with Title IV Federal aid is paid for, the Financial Aid Office must first determine if the student is considered a withdrawal OR if they qualify for the R2T4 Exemption.

BEFORE withdrawing from the school, students are strongly encouraged to meet with the Financial Aid Office to discuss the consequences with Title IV eligibility and with HC Student Accounts to understand financial aid and billing policies.

A student qualifies for the R2T4 Exemption and is NOT considered to have withdrawn from Hastings College if:

- 1. The student completed the requirements for graduation from their program before completing the hours they were scheduled to attend in the semester (or payment period);
- 2. \*The student successfully completed Title IV eligible coursework in a block that contained at least 49% or more of the days in the semester, excluding all break days between blocks and breaks of 5 or more consecutive days, or a combination of blocks that when combined contain 49% or more of the days in the semesters; OR
- 3. The student successfully completed Title IV eligible coursework equivalent to half-time enrollment during the semester. Half time enrollment for undergraduates is 6 or more credits in a semester; graduate students is 4.5 credits or more in a semester.
- 4. Student confirms attendance in writing for a course in a later block (within the semester) that begins no later than 45 calendar days after the end of the block the student ceased attending.

For students that qualify for the R2T4 Exemption, they are not considered a withdrawal for Title IV purposes. However, it may be necessary to recalculate Title IV aid.

A student's enrollment status is very important for determining a student's eligibility for Federal financial aid, specifically the Federal Pell Grant and FSEOG (Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant). Pell Grant eligible students will have their eligibility and enrollment status recalculated throughout a semester based on a census date each block. (fall-spring-summer).



\*Explanation for countable days for the 49% R2T4 Exemption: Hastings College will divide the number of countable days in the blocks that the student has successfully completed by the overall number of countable days in the semester. This denominator will be the same figure for all students in the same program of study. (A successful completion is a grade of D or better; a grade of F or I (incomplete) is not considered successful completion.)

The overall number of countable days in the semester are all days in the semester minus all scheduled breaks of five or more consecutive days if they fall between blocks and minus all days off between blocks. For example, Hastings College observes a Thanksgiving break which is five or more consecutive days, however, this break is during Block 3 and will be included in a students' countable days. Hastings College observes a Spring break, which is also five or more consecutive days, however, this break is in BETWEEN blocks and will be excluded in a students' countable days.

If a student does not qualify for an R2T4 exemption, a student is considered withdrawn from the semester, and an R2T4 calculation must be performed. First, recalculating enrollment and eligibility for courses the student never attended-if applicable. This R2T4 calculation is to determine what percentage of the semester the student completed. If 60% or more is completed, no R2T4 calculation or return of Title IV will take place. Hastings College does NOT have an R2T4 Freeze Date. The number of days a student was scheduled to attend equals the number of days in the blocks there were eventually used to determine the amount of the student's Title IV eligibility. Breaks between blocks and breaks of fewer than five consecutive days ARE included!

If a student receives less assistance than the amount that they have earned, a student may be able to receive those additional funds. If a student received more assistance than they have earned, the excess funds must be returned by the School.

Hastings College will return any unearned Title IV funds it is responsible for returning as soon as possible, but no later than 45 days of the date the school determined the student withdrew, and offer any post-withdrawal disbursement of loan funds within 30 days of that date.

The Title IV programs included in this calculation and the order of their return is:

- Federal Direct Loan, Unsubsidized
- Federal Direct Loan, Subsidized
- Direct (parent) PLUS Loan
- Federal Pell Grant
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- TEACH Grant

Hastings College may automatically use all or a portion of a student's post withdrawal disbursement (including loan funds) for tuition, fees, or room and board charges. Some types of Title IV aid may not be available to the student once they have withdrawn because of other eligibility requirements.

The R2T4 Exemption and the number of completed vs total days that could be included in a student's calculation for an R2T4 can be complicated in a school calendar that includes multiple blocks within a semester. BEFORE withdrawing from the school, students are strongly encouraged to meet with the Financial Aid Office to discuss the consequences with Title IV eligibility and with Student Accounts to understand financial aid and billing policies.



### Notification of the Return of Title IV Funds

Students will receive a letter, along with an updated statement (provided by Student Accounts), to their permanent address, indicating the amount of aid that will be returned. These documents will also be emailed to the student's Hastings email account. The student is responsible for all charges resulting from this calculation and return.

Students that unofficially withdraw are typically discovered during the satisfactory academic progress review at the end of the fall, spring or summer semester. When 0 credit is earned for all enrolled courses, a last date of attendance is the last day that a student is 'academically engaged'. This date will be determined and used for the calculation of the return of Title IV funds and for the institutional refund policy.

As defined by the U.S. Department of Education and updated as of July 1, 2021, academic engagement is active participation by a student in an instructional activity related to the student's course of study that includes but is not limited to:

- Attending a synchronous class, lecture, recitation or field or laboratory activity, physically or online, where there is an opportunity for interaction between the instructor and student;
- Submitting an academic assignment;
- Taking an assessment or exam;
- Participating in a study group, group project, or online discussion that is assigned by the institution; or
- Interacting with an instructor about academic matters.

## A Sample Scenario

A student is enrolled in the following fall schedule: Block 1=2 credits, Block 2=4 credits and Block 3=8 credits. When federal aid was disbursed during Block 1, the student was enrolled full time and his Title IV aid (Pell Grant and Subsidized Loan) were based on this enrollment status. The student's Pell Grant was \$3,098 and Subsidized Loan net amount was \$1,732.

The student withdrawals on September 17th.

They do not meet any of the requirements for an R2T4 Exemption and an R2T4 calculation must take place. Since the student did not begin attendance in Block 3 (8 credits), their enrollment status (and Pell Grant eligibility) changes from full time to half time. \$1,549 in Pell Grant was returned to the Department of Education.

Did the student complete at least 60% or more of the payment period? Since Hastings College does not use an R2T4 Freeze Day, all days in Blocks 1, 2 and 3 are included in the calculation. The student completed 31 days, the total days is 117. (31/117=26.4% and does not meet the 60%).

#### R2T4 calculation:

- Step 1: Pell grant \$1,549 and subsidized loan \$1,732. Total amount disbursed \$3,281
- Step 2: Completed Days/Total Days for the student=26.4% Step 3: 26.4% x \$3,281 = \$866
- Step 4: \$3,281 \$866 = \$2,415
- Step 5: Institutional charges tuition and fees \$16,795. (100% 26.4% = 73.6%) \$16,795 x 73.6% = \$12,361
- Final Step: Use the lesser amount between \$2,415 and \$12,361

This is the amount of federal aid that must be returned = \$2,415.





# Cost of Attendance

The Financial Aid Office uses a variety of resources in determining the College's annual Cost of Attendance (COA). Regional and state averages, along with student survey results, are used for the following categories: books and supplies, travel and personal expenses. The actual tuition and fees will be based upon full time for undergraduates. Detailed information about costs and related fees can be found on the Hastings College website under <u>Cost of Attendance</u>.

# Billing & Payment Policy

Please refer to the Billing & Payment Policy in the Student Account & Billing Policies Document.



# Satisfactory Academic Progress for Federal & State Aid

Hastings College is required to establish minimum academic standards that students must meet in order to maintain eligibility for federal and state aid. These guidelines are established to encourage students, attending either part time or full time, to successfully complete courses for which aid is received. Below are the required minimum standards for students who are receiving federal or state financial or aid or for those who seek financial aid in the future.

## **Qualitative Requirements**

Minimum cumulative AND semester grade point average:

- After one semester, 1.65
- After two semesters, 1.80
- After three semesters, 1.90
- After four or more semesters, 2.0

## **Quantitative Requirements**

"Pace" refers to the pace at which a student must progress through their program of study to ensure completion within the maximum time frame permitted.

Pace is calculated by determining the cumulative number of credit hours the student has successfully completed divided by the number of cumulative credit hours the student has attempted. To meet the pace requirement, the student's cumulative completion rate must be 67% or higher. Credit hours transferred in from another institution are included in BOTH attempted and completed credits.

Successful completion is defined as receiving one of the following grades: A, B, C, D, or P. Credit hours that will not count as successfully completed include the following: F (fail), I (incomplete), or W (withdraw) AND their credit hours count in a student's attempted hours.

# **Maximum Time Frame Requirement**

Students must complete a minimum number of 128 credits to complete a baccalaureate degree. The maximum time for the completion of a student's academic program is 150% of this standard: 192 hours. Maximum time frame is based on total credit hours attempted at Hastings College plus any transfer credits accepted. These limits apply regardless of whether the student received federal financial aid for any or all of the credits attempted. Students will be suspended from financial aid eligibility the semester following the semester their attempted hours exceed their limit. There is NO warning semester for maximum time frame. However, a student may appeal.

# Warning Semester

Students who fail to meet one or more of the requirements will be placed on financial aid warning status for the following semester. Notification will be sent to the student's Hastings College email account. Students will be able to receive their federal and state financial aid (if they are otherwise eligible) during their warning semester while they work to restore their academic progress standing. If a student fails to meet one or more of the requirements again in the subsequent semester, the student will be placed on financial aid suspension and no longer eligible for financial aid.



## Suspension of Federal Financial Aid

At the end of the warning semester, if a student does not meet the SAP requirement, the student's federal financial aid will be suspended. The Financial Aid Office will notify the student by HC email and by mail to their permanent address.

## **Regaining Eligibility**

Students can still enroll at Hastings College without federal or state financial aid and independently pay for enough credits until they once again meet the SAP standards. Students can enroll at another institution for a semester and through transfer work accepted by Hastings College meet the SAP standards. A student could also complete a successful appeal process to regain their eligibility.

# **Appeal**

Students in suspension status may appeal by completing a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form. It should be submitted to the Financial Aid Director as soon as possible. It is recommended that the appeal be made before the start of the subsequent semester. A successful appeal must be based on significant extenuating circumstances that seriously impacted academic performance (for example, serious illness or injury of the student, death of a close relative). In the appeal the student is expected to demonstrate an understanding of what SAP measures failed and what has changed that will allow the student to meet SAP at the next evaluation. Supporting documentation is highly recommended and may be required depending on the circumstances for the appeal. The Satisfactory Academic Progress Committee will determine whether a probation semester will be granted. Please note that merely filing an appeal does NOT guarantee continued eligibility for financial aid.

# **Appeal Approval (Probation)**

If a student's appeal is approved by the SAP Committee, the student will be notified and given a probationary semester. For the probationary semester the student will be considered academically eligible for federal aid for which the student has applied and is otherwise eligible.

Once a probationary semester has concluded, the student may re-establish eligibility to be considered for federal aid for their next semester of enrollment by taking action that brings him or her into compliance with the requirements of Hastings College's policy.

Once a probationary semester has concluded in cases where it is not possible to meet all SAP standards in one semester, the student will be given an individualized academic plan. The student must demonstrate in a timely fashion the meeting of the academic plan and standards as established by the SAP Committee in order to re-establish eligibility for the next semester of enrollment.

# **Appeal Denial**

If an appeal for a probationary semester is denied by the SAP Committee, the Financial Aid Office will notify the student by HC email. Notice will also be mailed to the student's most recent permanent mailing address on file in the Financial Aid Office. The decision is final for that semester. The student may re-establish eligibility to be considered for federal aid for a subsequent semester by taking action that brings him or her into compliance with requirements of Hastings College's SAP standard.



### **Additional Information**

- Academic Affairs: The Academic Affairs Office has its own process and policy standards with regards to academic progress.
- Return of Federal Funds: Students who receive federal financial aid, but fail to complete any coursework will be subject to a Return of Federal Funds calculation and may be required to repay a portion of the aid that has been awarded. Your latest day of attendance, in one of the enrolled classes, will be used as the date for the return calculation.
- Frequency of Academic Progress Evaluation: The Financial Aid Office will review a student's academic record for satisfactory progress at the end of each semester: Fall, Spring, and Summer terms.
- Academic Plans: Sometimes it is mathematically impossible for a student to meet the minimum policy standard at the end of the semester. In those cases, the student will be required to meet with their academic advisor and develop an academic plan. The academic plan must be included with the appeal form and it should include the point in time at which the student will be able to meet the standard.