Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine

Policy Order Number: D070
Effective Date: January 23, 2024
Revised Date: April 30, 2024
DEAN APPROVED: April 30, 2024



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Policy Title: Office of Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Eligibility Policy

The Office of Financial Aid is required to monitor the academic progress of financial aid recipients. Financial aid recipients must comply with the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy as a condition of initial or continued eligibility. The Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Eligibility form is available in the Office of Financial Aid.

Glossary

Financial aid probation: A status assigned to a student who is failing to make SAP and who successfully appeals. Eligibility for aid may be reinstated for one payment period.

Academic probation: An adverse action that indicates unsatisfactory progress toward the medical degree based on poor academic performance and/or failure to meet OCOM professionalism standards as designated by the Student Progress and Professionalism Committee (SPPC). See OCOM Student Catalog.

OCOM Standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress

Maximum Time Frame Standard- - A medical student cannot exceed 150% of the published length of the medical degree program. OCOM Academic policy requires that students complete the program within six years from the date of matriculation. The

maximum time frame, calculated at 150%, would allow students to graduate within this 6-year academic policy. The time frame cannot be appealed.

Quantitative Measure of Progress Standard - A medical student must progress through the medical degree program to ensure that they will graduate within the maximum time frame. The pace at which a student is progressing is measured by dividing the total number of credit hours the student has successfully completed by the total number of credit hours attempted, including courses that a student failed, received a W for withdrawal, and/or repeated. Incompletes do not affect pace calculations. A student not meeting an overall cumulative completion pace of 67% or greater must submit an SAP appeal to the OFA.

Qualitative Measure of Progress Standard—A medical student is expected to successfully complete each academic year of study and be promoted to the next level of medical education. A student placed on academic probation (as indicated in the OCOM Catalog) and repeating an academic period must submit an SAP appeal to the OFA.

Evaluation, Appeals, and Reestablishing Aid Eligibility

A**cademic Progress Evaluation** - Students who receive loans, scholarships, and/or grants must meet SAP. SAP Standards are reviewed by the OCOM OFA annually at the end of each academic period of study. All prior academic progress is evaluated to determine eligibility for financial aid, even if a student has not previously received financial aid.

Appeals. A student who fails to meet SAP and remains an OCOM student must submit a SAP Appeal to the OCOM OFA. Unfortunate or unforeseen circumstances may occur in students' lives, and these events can adversely affect a student's academic progress. For this reason, students must submit a SAP Appeal Form and a personal statement that explains any mitigating situations, why the student failed to make SAP, and what has changed that will allow the student to make SAP at the next evaluation. Supporting documentation may be submitted along with appeals to OCOM OFA. Students with approved appeals are placed on a financial aid probationary status, allowing for financial aid award packaging and disbursement. Denied appeals will lose all aid eligibility.

Reestablishing Eligibility. A student may receive financial aid during the financial aid probationary period. If the student has successfully met SAP at the annual evaluation, the financial aid probationary status ends, and the student may continue to receive financial aid in good standing. If the student does not meet SAP at the end of the

financial aid probationary period, eligibility is changed from approved appeal to denied aid eligibility. Students with denied aid eligibility are not allowed to receive financial aid moving forward until the standards of SAP are successfully met.

Leave of Absence and Scholarship Policies

Leaves of Absence (LOA). A student returning from an approved LOA will have the same SAP status as when he or she began the LOA as long as the standards of SAP are met. The student may continue receiving financial aid upon returning to OCOM, provided that the LOA was not granted because of poor academic performance and/or being placed on academic probation due to unsatisfactory progress toward the medical degree. If the LOA is in conjunction with not meeting SAP, the student submits a SAP Appeal to OCOM OFA upon return to OCOM. An LOA designated as medical and/or personal is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Scholarship Recipients. The OCOM Scholarship policy requires students to maintain satisfactory academic progress. A student who fails to meet OCOM Standards of Academic Progress loses eligibility to receive their scholarship. Once the financial aid probationary period has ended and SAP standards have been met in a non-repeat year, the student may then submit a scholarship appeal to the OCOM Scholarship Committee for consideration of reinstatement. The student must initiate the reinstatement request and submit it between April 1 – April 30 for the next academic year's consideration. Reinstatement of scholarship is not guaranteed.