

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

U.S. federal regulations required all institutions to establish, publish, and apply standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for federal financial aid eligibility that means that in order to be eligible for U.S. financial aid students have to maintain a certain level of academic performance and to comply with the [Rules and Regulations](#).

The University of Debrecen checks the student's academic progress each semester to ensure they are meeting the above requirement. Therefore the Financial Aid Administrator contacts the US students' course coordinators and the Registrar's Office to confirm the satisfactory academic progress and regular attendance at the end of each semester before the second disbursement.

Duration and Pace

US Federal Regulations defines the maximum time frame in which students are expected to complete their academic programs. **The maximum time frame for program completion may not exceed 150% of the published length of the program measured in credit hours attempted.**

For example in order to receive the D.M.D. degree students need to achieve 300 credits (considering the recommended curriculum, this can be achieved in five years) – the maximum timeframe of the program is 450 credits.

Credits required for completion	Maximum credits for completion
Medicine (currently ineligible) – 360 credits	540 credits
Dentistry – 300 credits	450 credits
Pharmacy – 300 credits	450 credits

For the rest of the requirements please check the [model curriculum \(bulletin\)](#) of all the programs offered by the University of Debrecen.

All enrolment periods are considered when assessing the progress (even if no federal student aid was provided).

Assessment of the student's knowledge of the teaching material may be carried out according to

- a five-grade scale:

excellent (5),

good (4),

satisfactory (3),

pass (2),

fail (1);

- or a three-grade scale:

excellent (5),

satisfactory (3),

fail (1).

The grades are cumulative.

Continuing students must complete the academic year with a 3.0 grade average to continue to receive US loans (in case a student fails to reach the above defined average in the first semester s/he will be on Financial Aid Warning (see below) – if the student does not get 3.0 grade average at the end of the next semester s/he would lose eligibility).

Credit Accumulation System

The University of Debrecen operates an accumulation credit system that measures in credits the workload necessary to fulfil the academic requirements involving academic working hours prescribed as the preconditions for receiving a degree or the certificate of a degree at the University in one tier-programs, in college/university level undergraduate degree programs and complementary programs, in Bachelor and Master programs (BSc, BA, MSc, MA), in higher-level vocational trainings in all tracks and forms of education (full-time, evening, correspondence or distance education).

One credit stands for 30 student academic working hours. On average, the completion of an academic year equals 60 credits, and the workload for one semester in the curriculum corresponds to 30 credits.

The value of the credits, as long as the performance of the students has been accepted, is not dependent on what evaluation the students have actually received concerning their knowledge or competence.

Credits may be allocated only to courses whose evaluation is carried out on a five or a three-grade scale by administering a grade. No fractions of credits may be allocated to subjects/courses.

The allocation of contact hours and credit-values to individual subjects/courses is an organic part of the curriculum/syllabus.

The average number of individual academic working hours determined for the allowed length of studies may not exceed three times the number of class hours (contact hours) in full-time education and five times the number of class hours in part-time class education.

The curriculum shall specify the system of prerequisites, i.e., the previous completion of what other courses are required for signing up for certain (individual) courses. A maximum of three other courses or one module of 15 credits at the most (incorporating several subjects either thematically or depending on the training objectives of the major) may be identified as academic prerequisites for a given subject/course.

For certain subjects/courses either the previous or the simultaneous completion of other subjects/courses may be accepted or required.

Should students proceed with their studies in line with the model curriculum, they are eligible for Federal Student Loan. Additionally, because of the credit system, they can continue receiving the loan even if they have to retake some courses from the previous year. The only restriction is: the total of compulsory subjects from next year shall exceed that of the previous year.

It is important to note, **a course can be taken only three times.** Each time equals two exam opportunities, maximizing a total of **six exams per course.** Not completing a course the third time it is taken, or failing the sixth exam opportunity results in dismissal from the institution.

For a more detailed description of the credit system and for the model curriculum for each programs please check the Bulletins that are available on <http://edu.unideb.hu/page.php?bulletins&id=19>.

Students need to pass 67% of the credits attempted each semester in order to show satisfactory academic progress.

Financial Aid Warning

If the student does not meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements they will be placed on 'Financial Aid Warning' until the next semester starts and will be eligible to receive aid for only that period. These students need to take actions in order to improve their grades and to meet the requirements.

Failure to meet the SAP requirements at the end of the Financial Aid Warning Period will result in a loss of eligibility for Federal Financial Aid.

It is possible for students to receive more than one warning period during an academic career just not consecutively.

Appeals and Probation

In case the satisfactory academic progress requirements has not been fulfilled and the financial aid eligibility is lost students can submit an appeal in case the failure is due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. health problem).

The appeal should be sent by e-mail to the Financial Aid Administrator (Ms. Dora Benko) - within 2 weeks after receiving the notification e-mail from the University - to dora@edu.unideb.hu. It must state the reason why the student failed to fulfill the satisfactory academic progress and all necessary supporting documents have to be enclosed (e.g. doctor's report).

In case a successful appeal the student may receive Financial Aid for only for one payment period.

The student also must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress in order to receive subsequent Financial Aid.

In case a student exceeds the 150% credit limit on their program they cannot re-gain eligibility.

If the appeal is approved the student is placed on Probation. They are expected to be making SAP in the next payment period or follow the academic plan successfully in order to ensure that

they will be able to meet SAP by a specific point in time. In case the student does not meet the SAP requirements after probation status s/he loses her/his financial aid eligibility.

Students who fail to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress after Probation but later they improve their grades and show satisfactory academic progress may regain their eligibility.

If the student fails to appeal, the student is not eligible for Title IV funding.

Please contact the Financial Aid Administrator for further information.