

Overview

This policy applies to current and prospective students of Flinders University applying for or receiving US Federal Aid (Direct Loan Subsidized, Direct Loan Unsubsidized and Direct Loan PLUS). This policy is in addition to the academic progress requirements in the University's [Student Progress Policy](#). SAP is reviewed at the end of each loan payment period. This policy will take apply to review of SAP from 2022 onwards.

Definitions

Financial Aid Warning: A status assigned to a student who fails to make satisfactory academic progress at the end of an evaluation period.

Financial Aid Suspension: A status assigned to a student who fails to make satisfactory academic progress after two successive evaluation periods.

Financial Aid Probation: A status assigned to a student who fails to make satisfactory academic progress and who has appealed and has had eligibility for aid reinstated.

Students receiving financial aid will be evaluated at the end of each semester. Doctor of Medicine students will be assessed annually. This evaluation process will consider the students' progress under the following categories:

- a. Academic standing
- b. Maximum timeframe

In order to continue to receive US federal aid must meet minimum standards for both of these components.

Academic standing

Students in receipt of financial aid who are completing a coursework program will be required to maintain a cumulative GPA of 4.0 (Australian scale). The following table describes the current GPA scores:

Result	GPA
High Distinction	7.0
Distinction	6.0
Credit	5.0
Pass	4.0
Fail	0.0
Withdraw Fail	1.5

The following results are not used when calculating GPA scores:

- Non-graded Pass
- Withdraw Not Fail

Transfer credits and cross-institutional study

GPA scores achieved at other tertiary institutions prior to commencing with Flinders University will not count towards the assessment of Academic Standing whilst studying at Flinders University. Students who transfer courses within Flinders University will carry with them the GPA from their previous course. Results obtained for cross-institutional studies which are completed whilst a student at Flinders University will be used in GPA assessments.

Fail grades

Fail grades and Withdraw Fail grades for topics undertaken at Flinders will be included.

Withdraw not Fail Grades and remissions

Students who have withdrawn before the census date or who have received a remission for special circumstances under the remission policy will not have these units counted towards the academic standing component as per the [University policy](#) on refunds and remissions.

Students in receipt of financial aid who are completing a Higher Degree Research program (Masters by research or a PhD) will be required to maintain satisfactory progress as determined by their academic supervisor as part of the University's [HDR Progression Policy](#).

Students who fail to meet these academic standing requirements will initially be placed on Financial Aid warning. Continued failure to meet these requirements may result in Financial Aid suspension.

Students who have incomplete grades may need to have these grades resolved prior to an assessment of academic progression being completed.

As per the University's student progress policy, students who are having ongoing difficulties with progression if they experience one or more of the following:

1. fail a topic more than once
2. fail 50% or more units of the total attempted units for the course
3. are unable to meet any professional registration or accreditation requirements and/or inherent
4. requirements of the course. This includes being unable to complete a placement in accordance with
5. the Work Integrated Learning Policy
6. fail to meet any other progression criteria

may be subject to a formal review of progress under the broader [University Student Progress Policy](#).

Maximum timeframe

A student is entitled to receive financial aid for 150% of the allocated course timeframe.

Coursework degrees:

- 3 year degree 108 units – maximum eligibility units 162.
- 4 year degree – 144 units – maximum eligibility units 216.
- 5 year degree - 180 units – maximum eligibility units 270.

Higher Degree Research programs:

- 2 year Masters – 3 EFTSL (Equivalent Full-time student Load) maximum
- 4 year PhD – 6 EFTSL (Equivalent Full-time student Load) maximum.

Rate of Progression

Students who are completing their first year of a coursework program must successfully complete at least 66% of attempted units each year to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. For example, a student completing their first 18 units must successfully complete 12 of these units.

Once students complete their initial 36 units of study at Flinders University, there is an ongoing requirement to be passing 67% of their studies overall.

The Doctor of Medicine is awarded on a Non-Graded Pass basis at the end of each academic year. SAP will be assessed at the end of each academic year. In addition to the University Progress Policy requirements, MD students must complete all topic pre-requisites as per the [MD Handbook](#) to continue study each semester.

Students who transfer to Flinders University and are granted Credit for previous studies will have their maximum timeframe adjusted to reflect this. Eg, students have Recognised Prior Learning or credit transferred into their program will have the value of this credit included in their maximum time frame calculations.

Students who have received remissions for topics due to extenuating circumstances will have these topics excluded from the maximum timeframe component.

Students should be advised that whilst US federal eligibility may allow them to continue to apply for aid, individual academic progress rules and student visa restrictions may impact on the student's ability to continue with the program.

Financial Aid Warning

Students who do not meet the Academic Standing requirements described above will be placed on Financial Aid warning for an initial period of one (1) semester. Students will be notified of this in writing by email.

Students who have been placed on Financial Aid warning and who subsequently meet the Academic Standing requirements for the following semester will have the Financial Aid warning status removed.

Financial Aid Suspension

Students who have been given a Financial Aid warning status and who fail to attain the minimum Academic Standing requirements in the following semester will have their aid suspended. Such students may be eligible to be reinstated if they meet the Academic Standing requirements in a subsequent teaching period. Students placed on Financial Aid suspension will be advised in writing by email and by registered letter.

Students may appeal their suspension of aid, as detailed below.

Appeals

A student may seek to have a decision made under these provisions reviewed. To seek such a review a student must lodge a request in writing, setting out the reason for the review request. Applications for a review and any supporting documentation should be forwarded to:
Manager, Student Finance and Scholarships
Student Centre
Flinders University
askflinders@flinders.edu.au

Reinstatement

Students who are successfully reinstated will be placed on Financial Aid probation for a minimum period of one (1) semester.

Note: Failure to meet these requirements do not impact on any assessment of progress made under the University's Student Progress policy.