



## **Maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress To Receive Financial Aid**

### **Office of Financial Aid**

#### **Background**

All colleges and universities must measure students' progress toward graduation to participate in the Federal Title IV programs of financial assistance. These programs include Pell Grant, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, Work-Study, Perkins, Direct and PLUS Loans.

#### **Types of Measurement**

Academic progress for financial aid must be measured from both a qualitative and a quantitative standpoint. Qualitative measurement refers to your grade point average. Quantitative refers to the number of hours earned over a period of time.

Winthrop's qualitative measure is listed as "Academic Eligibility Schedule" in the *2008-2009 Undergraduate Catalog* on page 31. If you are eligible to continue enrollment at Winthrop, you will be deemed to have made satisfactory academic progress if you also meet the quantitative measurement requirement.

The quantitative measurement is divided into two parts, total hours you have attempted and the percentage of hours you have attempted which you have earned. First, you cannot have attempted more than 186 semester hours for your first baccalaureate degree. Total attempted hours include hours attempted at Winthrop plus hours accepted for transfer from other institutions.

Second, you must earn two-thirds of all hours attempted at Winthrop. To determine this percentage, all transfer hours are subtracted from total hours attempted and from total hours earned. The number of Winthrop hours earned is then divided by the number of Winthrop hours attempted. The result must equal or exceed .6667.

#### **Probationary Status to Receive Aid**

An undergraduate student who has not met the two-thirds progress standard, but has earned at least 24 hours during the most recently completed academic year, or at least 12 hours during the most recently completed semester, or at least 9 hours during the summer prior to the award year in question, will be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress on a probationary status. For graduate students, minimum required earned hours are 12 for the academic year, 6

for the semester, and 6 for the summer term.

### **Frequency of Measurement**

Progress is measured once each year at the end of the spring semester. If you have not met the progress or probationary requirement, you will be ineligible for financial aid for subsequent semesters until satisfactory progress has been achieved.

### **Notification of Students**

Students are notified of their lack of satisfactory progress soon after the end of the spring semester. Time is allowed for all grades to be posted prior to notification.

### **Regaining Satisfactory Academic Progress**

If you are not eligible to receive financial aid because of lack of satisfactory progress, you may regain eligibility for aid in one of three ways. First, if you earn nine semester hours (undergraduate) or six semester hours (graduate) *without financial aid* in the summer term which immediately follows the academic year in which you failed to make progress, you will be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress on a probationary status for the next academic year.

Second, if you earn 12 semester hours (undergraduate) or 6 semester hours (graduate) in a subsequent term (not the immediately following summer term) *without financial aid*, you will be considered to be making satisfactory progress on a probationary status.

Finally, you may appeal if you have experienced difficulties during a particular term and those difficulties caused you to fall below the minimum satisfactory academic progress standards. Requests for appeal must be submitted in writing to the Office of Financial Aid and must be based on illness or death in your immediate family. Immediate family is defined as your parents, spouse (if married), your siblings, and your children. Similar unusual circumstances, which have created undue difficulties for you may be cited. Forms for this purpose are mailed with the letter informing you of your lack of progress. You may also download this form from the financial aid Web site at [www.winthrop.edu/finaid](http://www.winthrop.edu/finaid). Click "Forms On-line," and select ***Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal***.

You may also appeal if you have met or exceeded the maximum 186 attempted hours for your first baccalaureate degree. Your appeal must be based on being admitted to a second-degree program or changing majors during enrollment which created additional hour requirement beyond the typical needed for graduation. This request must be in writing and include your estimate of additional hours needed for graduation and your anticipated date of graduation approved by your academic department or advisor.