

Academic Standards for Federal Financial Aid

In order to remain eligible for federal student aid, each student must maintain academic performance in compliance with the following standards:

Certificate Program

Total Attempted Credits In Program	Minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average	Cumulative Credits Earned / Attempted
18.5 or less attempted credits	1.00	34 percent
19 or more attempted credits	2.00	67 percent

Associate / Bachelor Degree Programs

Total Attempted Credits In Program	Minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average	Cumulative Credits Earned / Attempted
18.5 attempted credits	1.30	34 percent
19 – 30.5 attempted credits	1.50	34 percent
31 to 40.5 attempted credits	1.80	67 percent
41 – 47.5 attempted credits	2.00	67 percent
48 or more attempted credits	2.00	67 percent

Definitions:

“Attempted” credit hours include all college-level credit that is contained in the student’s academic history (transcript) at SUNY Delhi (including transfer credits, advanced placement credits, proficiency credits, and all other credits accepted into the student’s program).

“Earned” credit hours include all “attempted” credit hours (see above) except those for which a failing, withdrawn, incomplete or other non-passing grade has been issued.

Additional “Maximum Timeframe” Standard: Eligibility is also limited to students completing their programs within one and one-half times the normal program length (150%). The maximum timeframe is reached when the student’s “attempted credit hours exceed one and one-half times the number of credits required to earn their degree(s) or certificate in the program(s) in which the student is currently enrolled.

Timing of Evaluations and Evaluation Process: SUNY Delhi measures academic progress at the end of each semester, including the summer semester. Grades listed as “incomplete” at the time of evaluation will be considered attempted and not earned, but will not affect the GPA.

Financial Aid Warning Status: Students who fail to meet the standards defined above will be placed on Financial Aid Warning Status for a period of one semester. Students in Financial Aid Warning Status remain eligible for federal financial aid, but are expected to improve their academic standing by the end of the “warning” semester.

If the student has not returned to “good” academic standing (according to the Standard) by the end of the Financial Aid Warning semester, the student will lose eligibility for federal student aid from that point forward. Such loss of eligibility may be subject to appeal (see below).

Regaining Academic Eligibility

1. Mitigating Circumstances Appeal: A determination of loss of eligibility for federal financial aid may be appealed based on mitigating circumstance(s). A mitigating circumstance is defined an exceptional or unusual event(s) beyond the student’s direct control, which contributed to or caused the academic

difficulty. Examples include the death of a relative, an injury or illness of the student or other special circumstances. Appeal letters should be addressed to the Director of Financial Aid and should include a complete description of the circumstances that led to the academic difficulty, how those circumstances have changed, and a plan for future academic success. Copies of any available supporting documentation should be included. All appeals are reviewed by a committee of academic and administrative staff whose determination is final. The committee will report all appeal decisions to the Director of Financial Aid. A single mitigating circumstance event generally does not justify a pattern of poor performance.

A student for whom a mitigating circumstance appeal is approved will be placed in Financial Aid Probation status. If the student fails to return to “good” academic standing (according to the Standards) by the end of the planned probationary period, the student will lose eligibility for federal student aid from that point forward. Such loss of eligibility may only be appealed based upon a mitigating circumstance which occurred subsequent to the granting of the prior appeal. Students whose appeal is approved may be placed on an Academic Plan if it is not mathematically possible to meet the minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress after the following semester.

2. Regaining Eligibility Other Than Through Appeal: Students who have lost federal financial aid eligibility may potentially regain academic eligibility by one of two methods: a) make up the academic deficiencies at SUNY Delhi without benefit of federal student aid, or b) return to SUNY Delhi after an absence of not less than twelve months and submit transfer credit acceptable to SUNY Delhi which will bring the student’s record into compliance with the attempted/earned standard.

Students for whom the completion of the program will not be mathematically possible within the Maximum Timeframe Standard (see above) will not be approved for regained academic eligibility.

Upon Return to Good Standing: Once a student has returned to good academic standing, any previous academic difficulty, warning, or probation shall have no future bearing on the student’s status. Hence such students will have the benefit of all provisions of this policy, including a warning semester.