

## Academic Standards for New York State Financial Aid

Students who receive New York State Tuition Assistant Program (TAP) awards are expected to make progress toward their degree and maintain a certain grade point average to remain eligible for TAP in following semesters.

The criteria is based on program level and when you received your first TAP award.

**TAP Points and Placement Within the Standards:** Each payment a student receives under the TAP or other NYS Grant/Scholarship programs at any school is recorded by the NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (NYSHESC) in Albany. A student is charged six points for each semester payment. For each of the standards below, a student is placed in the appropriate section of the eligibility chart according to the cumulative lifetime undergraduate TAP points as recorded by NYSHESC.

**Standards of Eligibility for NYS Grants and Scholarships:** The NYS Standards of Academic Progress have two components. The first component measures whether a student has actually completed each semester for which a NYS award has been paid. This component is referred to as **Pursuit of Program**. The second component measures *cumulative* academic progress on a tiered scale according to the number of NYS payments a student has received. This component is referred to as **NYS Academic Progress**.

**Pursuit of Program:** Each student is charged with completing the coursework in any semester for which the student has received NYS Grant/Scholarship funds. For purposes of the Pursuit of Program Standard, a failing grade that is the result of a full semester's effort is considered "completed", even though no credit is earned. Grades indicating withdrawal at any point in the semester or incomplete work are not considered "completed". Any student receiving NYS Grants/Scholarships must complete the required number of credits *each semester* based upon the student's class year (as determined by cumulative TAP points at the end of the measured semester), or the student will lose eligibility for subsequent NYS Grants/Scholarships payments.

| <u>Year in School:</u>     | <u>Minimum Credits "Completed"</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 (0 to 12 TAP points)     | 6 credits                          |
| 2 (13 to 24 TAP points)    | 9 credits                          |
| 3+ (25 or more TAP points) | 12 credits                         |

**Academic Progress:** Each student must also maintain satisfactory cumulative academic progress in order to continue receiving NYS Grants/Scholarships awards. Before receiving a NYS Grants/Scholarships payment, a student's previous academic progress is measured according to the following chart:

| <i>In order to receive this semester</i> | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 5 <sup>th</sup> | 6 <sup>th</sup> | 7 <sup>th</sup> | 8 <sup>th</sup> | 9 <sup>th</sup> | 10 <sup>th</sup> |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
|  | (0)             | (6)             | (12)            | (18)            | (24)            | (30)            | (36)            | (42)            | (48)            | (54)             |

|  |     |     |     |     |     |     |                                |            |            |            |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <i>payment (previous TAP points not to exceed):</i>                                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |                                |            |            |            |
| <i>All programs:</i>   |     |     |     |     |     |     | <i>Bachelor programs only:</i> |            |            |            |
| <i>A student must have earned at least this many credits:</i>                        | 0   | 6   | 15  | 27  | 39  | 51  | 66                             | 81         | 96         | 111        |
| <i>with at least this grade point average (other than bachelor degree programs):</i> | 0.0 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.0 | <i>n/a</i>                     | <i>n/a</i> | <i>n/a</i> | <i>n/a</i> |
| <i>with at least this grade point average (bachelor degree programs):</i>            | 0.0 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0                            | 2.0        | 2.0        | 2.0        |

### **Loss of Eligibility**

Students who fail to meet both sets of standards will lose future eligibility for NYS grants and scholarships, including TAP.

Students who fail to meet the standards for TAP may submit a **one-time** written appeal based on mitigating circumstances. A mitigating circumstance is an exceptional or unusual event(s) beyond the student's direct control, which contributed to or caused the academic difficulty. Copies of supporting documentation should also be submitted.

The letter should include:

- Complete description of the circumstances
- How the circumstances have changed,
- Explanation of how you plan to improve your academic performance

Additional documentation may be needed and will be requested once the letter has been reviewed.

### **Remedial Courses**

Students who successfully complete remedial courses earn “credit equivalents” rather than college credit. These credit equivalents are included in all academic eligibility calculations for purposes of NYS Grants/Scholarships, including contributing to a student’s full-time status and total earned credits for the academic progress chart. Remedial courses do not impact grade point average.

### **Waivers**

Students who lose NYS Grants/Scholarships eligibility may apply for a one-time waiver using the same process as described for "Mitigating Circumstances Appeal" in the *Academic Progress Standard for Federal Financial Aid Eligibility* section of the SUNY Delhi College Catalog. Waiver requests and federal mitigating circumstances appeals may be submitted using a common letter as appropriate. Waiver request letters should clearly indicate the request is being submitted for a "NYS Grants/Scholarships Waiver". Students who need more information or assistance with the NYS Grants/Scholarships Waiver process are encouraged to meet with the Director of Financial Aid.