



# Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

## STANDARD #1: GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Always maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher each semester and cumulatively to avoid financial aid warning and/or denial. A 2.0 GPA is required for graduation and transfer to four-year colleges and universities. If transfer is your goal, always exceed the minimum requirements so your academic profile is competitive and attractive to potential transfer institutions.

## STANDARD #2: PACE OF PROGRESSION & MAXIMUM TIME FRAME

You must complete at least 67% of the units you attempt each semester and overall to maintain your eligibility (this is defined as your "Pace of Progression").

REQUIRED UNITS YOU MUST COMPLETE EACH SEMESTER																
Attempted units for the semester*:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Units you must complete:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>

\*These units appear on your transcript as attempted.

## WARNING: MAXIMUM TIME FRAME FOR AID

You are not eligible to receive financial aid at Compton College when you accumulate more than 90 units attempted. Since the associate degree requires 60 units, the Financial Aid Office permits you to change your major once prior to reaching 90 units attempted.

The units you accumulate and your academic success matter. All students are expected to complete their bachelor's de-gree within 12 full-time semesters. At Compton College, you are expected to complete your associate degree and/or six full time semesters or 90 units. See pages 4-5 for additional information.



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## General Requirements

Students receiving financial aid must be enrolled in an eligible program. An eligible program is defined as:

- Certificate, OR
- An associate degree (AA or AS), OR
- A two-year academic transfer program that is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree (AA-T or AS-T).

## THE FOLLOWING TWO STANDARDS MUST BE MET FOR COMPTON COLLEGE STUDENTS TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

### Standard 1: Grade Point Average Requirement

Students must maintain a 2.0 minimum grade point average (GPA) in all coursework attempted.

If the student's cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, the student will be placed on financial aid warning for one semester. If the student does not achieve a 2.0 or higher GPA during their warning semester, they will be denied from further financial assistance and will be given the option to submit a financial aid appeal. To request reinstatement prior to reaching the maximum time frame at Compton College (i.e. 90 units attempted if you are pursuing an associate degree; it varies for certificates). Students who transfer to Compton College with below a 2.0 GPA from all previous institution(s) attended may be placed on financial aid warning or be denied based on a review of their entire postsecondary record. The expectation is that all students will meet the minimum standards required by federal law.

### Standard 2: Pace of Progression and Maximum Time Frame for Financial Aid Eligibility

#### A. Pace of Progression Requirement

Students must complete at least 67% of the units attempted each semester and overall to maintain eligibility (this is referred to as "**Pace of Progression**" below). The Pace of Progression is based on all classes that appear on the permanent record from Compton College. Additionally, students are not eligible to receive financial aid at Compton College when more than 90 units are attempted during the entire academic career (this is referred to as "**maximum time frame**" below).

#### How to calculate your Pace of Progression: Do you meet Pace of Progression standards?

Total # of units completed at Compton College

#

Total # of units attempted at Compton College

#

=

Must be greater than 0.67\* or 67%\* each semester **AND** cumulatively to meet the Pace of Progression requirement  
**\*no rounding**

**Q:** Why do students in 12 units have to maintain a 75% pace of progression each semester?

**A:** Students in 12 units must complete nine units because if they only complete eight units, their Pace of Progression would be .66 or 66%. The standard is always .67 or 67% higher at Compton College each semester and overall if you wish to stay eligible for financial aid.

Some certificate programs may be completed in less time than that required for the associate degree and/or transfer. **Attempted Semester Units Include** (whether or not paid for by financial aid):

**Earned (Successful) Grades:** A, B, C, D, and CR

**Incomplete Grades:** I, IP

**Non-passing Grades:** W, F, NC



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## B. Maximum Time Frame:

Students who have attempted 90 units or more will be denied from aid. Federal law requires that students requesting financial aid be able to complete their primary educational goal within 150% of their program length or six semesters full-time. We calculate the maximum time frame for the associate degree and certificate as follows:

**60 units required for an associate degree x 150% = 90 units allowed**  
**Certificate programs vary (# of units required for program) x 150% = maximum units allowed**

All coursework as recorded on your transcript from Compton College is used to calculate your maximum time frame. A student who has exceeded the maximum time frame and/or cannot mathematically complete their program within this time frame will be placed on Financial Aid Disqualified status and will be provided instructions on how to appeal. Students who have previously received a BA/BS, MA/MS, or professional degree (for student loans only) will also be disqualified and provided the option to submit an appeal.

## C. Why Does Your Academic Success Matter for Financial Aid Purposes?

Effective July 1, 2013, federal law limits the total maximum time frame for undergraduates pursuing a BA/BS degree to receive federal student aid to 12 full-time semesters regardless of past and current semesters of attendance and academic progress.

At Compton College, students are expected to complete their primary educational goal within the equivalent of six semesters full-time to avoid Financial Aid Disqualified status. **Compton College financial aid strictly enforces our Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy to comply with federal law. Compton College creates the conditions for our graduates to have the ability to receive financial aid when they transfer and enter a four-year college and/or university. Please note the conditions below as they address many of the areas that impact student success for financial aid applicants and recipients at Compton College.**


- 1. Change of Major/Educational Objective:** Students may be permitted to change their educational objective once at Compton College before the 90 units attempted maximum is reached. However, no change of major is permitted after the student has exceeded the 90 units attempted maximum.
- 2. Repeated Classes:** A student may receive financial aid for retaking a course they failed, and if a student withdraws before completing the course they are being paid financial aid for retaking, that is not counted as the student's one allowed retake for that course. Any repeated classes will count toward the maximum time frame.
- 3. Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) and In-Progress (IP) grades** count as attempted units in the maximum time frame. The grades do not affect the cumulative GPA.
- 4. Enrollment in physical education (PE) classes** only will not be funded by financial aid.
- 5. Academic renewal** is not recognized for financial aid purposes. Financial aid always counts your attempted and completed units regardless of whether or not you have been granted academic renewal. Even when a more favorable grade is subsequently received, both attempts would be counted as part of your maximum time frame for financial aid purposes.
- 6. Declare a Major:** Students must declare a specific major area of study. Please refer to the College Catalog and your academic counselor for information about the various majors and programs of study at Compton College.



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## D. Financial Aid Status and Appeal


Students who do not meet the SAP Standards listed above will be subject to disqualified from receiving further financial aid. Please note that the California College Promise Grant (CCPG) does not use the same academic progress standards as federal and state financial aid programs.



**2.0 GPA**

**UNITS COMPLETED** / **UNITS ATTEMPTED** >67%


**Fewer than 90 units attempted in academic career**



**BELOW 2.0 GPA**

**AND / OR**

**UNITS COMPLETED** / **UNITS ATTEMPTED** <67%



**BELOW 2.0 GPA**

**AND / OR**

**UNITS COMPLETED** / **UNITS ATTEMPTED** <67%

**AND / OR**

**90+** **MORE THAN 90 UNITS ATTEMPTED IN ACADEMIC CAREER**

### “Good” Status

Compton College reviews your academic progress (units attempted, units completed and GPA) each semester. All students are notified of their financial aid status in *MyCompton* within two weeks of the time that grades post for the semester. At Compton College, students in “good” financial aid standing have met the 2.0 GPA and 67% Pace of Progression requirements described above and have less than 90 units attempted.

### Warning Status

Students who fail to meet the SAP standards for progress (see Standards 1 and 2 above) will be placed on one semester (maximum) of Financial Aid Warning. **Students placed on Financial Aid Warning receive one semester of financial aid, including the CCPG, with the requirement that they improve their academic performance to meet the minimum SAP standards.** Additionally, students on Financial Aid Warning receive specific guidance and reminders from the Financial Aid Office via *MyCompton* reminding them of the importance of academic success to retaining their financial aid eligibility. Students on Financial Aid Warning status may also be at risk of being placed on Academic Probation and/or dismissal from Compton College. Students should always check *MyCompton* prior to the start of each semester so they can be advised of their status and expectations for progress to maintain their eligibility for financial aid and continued enrollment.

### Disqualified Status— Grade Point Average and/or “Pace of Progression”

After one semester of Financial Aid Warning, students who fail to meet the SAP standards for progress during their Warning semester (see Standards 1 and 2 above) will be placed on Financial Aid Disqualified status. **Students placed on Financial Aid Disqualified status do not receive their financial aid for the semester in which they are disqualified.** However, students on Financial Aid Disqualified status may continue to receive the California College Promise Grant (CCPG).

**Appeal Process Prior to Reaching the Maximum Time Frame:** A student placed on Financial Aid Disqualified status has the right to submit a financial aid appeal prior to reaching the maximum time frame by the deadlines advertised by the Financial Aid Office. Within two weeks from the time that final grades post for the current semester, all students are notified via *MyCompton* of their financial aid status. Additionally, students on a Financial Aid Disqualified status are provided information on how to submit an appeal.



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## **E. Financial Aid Strategies for Satisfactory Academic Progress**

1. You should meet with an academic counselor and develop an educational plan and adhere to it. The Counseling Office is located in the Student Services Building, Room 266.
2. Do not take excessive non-degree applicable units (i.e. excessive PE courses, non-major courses). The excessive accumulation of units may negatively impact your eligibility when you transfer to a four-year college and/or university.
3. Utilize campus resources (Student Success Center for tutoring) to help you succeed in English, math and other courses.
4. If you are “waiting” for admission to one of Compton College’s competitive programs (i.e. Registered Nursing), do not register for classes for financial aid purposes only. The units you attempt count against your long-term 90 unit maximum. You may actually jeopardize your eligibility once you are admitted to your program if you take excessive prerequisite courses or non-major related courses.
5. Be advised! The Compton College Financial Aid Office strongly encourages all students to visit the financial aid websites of their target transfer institutions to review their policies on satisfactory academic progress for financial aid purposes. Many CSU and UC institutions do not allow appeals for maximum time frame and excessive units. Therefore, academic success at Compton College is essential for maintaining your eligibility at four-year transfer institutions you may plan to attend.