

Satisfactory Academic Progress

UCLA School of Dentistry

Background

Federal regulations require the University to establish and apply reasonable standards of satisfactory progress for the purpose of the receipt of financial assistance. Each institution must design criteria which outline the definition of student progress towards a degree and the consequences to the student if progress is not achieved. Students at the UCLA School of Dentistry (the School) who wish to be considered for financial aid must maintain satisfactory academic progress in their course of study as set forth in this policy.

The School uses both qualitative and quantitative standards to measure student progress toward D.D.S. degree completion. To be eligible for financial aid, students must meet or exceed these standards. Failure to do so may result in suspension of financial aid eligibility. The following standards are equally strict for all students enrolled in either the 4 year D.D.S. program or the advanced standing Professional Program for International Dentists (PPID) and whether or not they are receiving Title IV assistance.

STANDARDS	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
Qualitative Standard	Complete coursework with a Pass, Marginal, NP/M or NP/P (Remediated No Pass), or NG (No Grade Required), a record equivalent to maintaining a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0
Quantitative Standard	May not exceed 150% of the published length of the program as shown in the Maximum Timeframe Table

MAXIMUM TIMEFRAME

Degree Program	Units Required for Degree	Maximum Time Frame
D.D.S. Program	15 Quarters of full-time enrollment Equivalent to 4 years	23 Quarters of full-time enrollment Equivalent to 6 years
PPID Program	8 Quarters of full-time enrollment Equivalent to 2 years	12 Quarters of full-time enrollment Equivalent to 3 years

Summary of Standards for Academic Progress

The academic requirements for the DDS degree include satisfactory completion of the curriculum, as assessed by the faculty and reviewed by the Student Performance Committee. At the present time there is no maximum time frame for degree completion. However the maximum time frame for financial aid eligibility is 23 quarters for the 4 year DDS program and a maximum of 12 quarters for the PPID program. The Student Performance Committee (SPC) meets at least once each quarter and at the end of the academic year to assess the current and cumulative progress of each student. A student whose academic progress is determined to be unsatisfactory will be placed on Academic Probation with specific terms for returning to good academic standing. The complete SPC policies and procedures are available in a separate document.

The SPC review includes an assessment of any No Pass, Conditional, or Incomplete grades and their impact upon the student's progress. Particular attention is focused on students who are not remediating the above grades as required by course chairs, students who are on academic probation and not meeting the terms of probation, and students who have been reclassified to repeat an academic year.

Maximum Time Frame

A student required by the School of Dentistry to repeat course work or extend their program may receive financial aid for a maximum of 23 quarters for the 4 year DDS program and a maximum of 12 quarters for the PPID program. This limit includes any quarter the student was enrolled, whether or not the student received financial aid. If a student temporarily withdraws from school, the quarter in which the student withdraws will be considered a quarter of enrollment. The Financial Aid Office will determine if you are eligible for aid for repeat coursework based upon our school policies.

A student may be granted a leave of absence for a variety of reasons and is not eligible for financial aid during such a leave. The time period of an approved leave will be excluded from the maximum time frame in which an individual student will be expected to complete the program.

Concurrent Degree Programs

For a student who pursues the DDS and PhD degrees concurrently, the program length is defined by the sum of enrollment periods established by the School of Dentistry for the DDS degree and the Graduate Division for the PhD degree.

Financial Aid Probation

Students placed on Academic Probation will also be placed on Financial Aid Probation.

A student on Academic and Financial Aid Probation will continue to be eligible to receive financial aid as long as they have not exceeded the maximum time frame for

degree completion and the SPC determines that the student has not violated the terms of the Academic Probation.

Suspension of Financial Aid

If the SPC determines that a student has violated the terms of the Academic Probation, financial aid eligibility will be suspended. The Office of Student Affairs and Financial Aid Officers will place a hold on further financial aid. The hold will only be released with direction from the Student Performance Committee that the student has once again achieved good academic standing.

Appeals

The School is willing to respond to mitigating circumstances which may arise in individual situations. A student may appeal loss of eligibility for financial aid to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and the Chair of the Student Performance Committee.

Reinstatement

A student who has had financial aid eligibility suspended for failing to maintain the Standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress, or who has been denied an appeal, may regain financial aid eligibility by coming into compliance with the qualitative and quantitative components of the Academic Progress Standards. **Students who have exceeded the Maximum Timeframe cannot regain eligibility through the Reinstatement process.**

Implementation

The Associate Dean for Student Affairs and the School of Dentistry Financial Aid Officers will have joint responsibility for implementation and enforcement of this satisfactory academic progress policy for students receiving financial aid. Students will be notified about the policy at the time of initial enrollment and the School of Dentistry will publish the policy under Student Resources on the School website. A student placed on academic probation will receive a copy of the policy as an attachment to the academic probation letter. The SPC will monitor the students' academic performance and will notify the Financial Aid Officers, in writing, of any student who is placed on academic probation and whether or not a student previously placed on probation is meeting the terms of his or her probation. The student will be notified that they have been placed in financial aid probationary status, or that their financial aid eligibility has been suspended or reinstated. The School of Dentistry will receive a copy of the financial aid status letter for the student's file.