

## POLICY ON SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS FOR FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

To determine financial aid eligibility for the following academic year, the Committee on Scholarships and Student Aid annually evaluates students' satisfactory academic progress at the end of the second summer session. Additional evaluation is made at a student's re-admittance.

The receipt of federally-controlled aid requires half-time enrollment (4.5 or more hours) during the fall and spring semesters and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 on work attempted in the Wake Forest School of Divinity. Institutional aid is generally not awarded for summer sessions, and not awarded beyond the sixth (fall or spring) semester; this limit can be prorated for transfer students. Certain institutional aid programs have higher academic and/or other requirements, which are communicated to students through the Curriculum and Academic Policy Committee. The Committee may revoke institutionally-controlled financial aid for violation of University regulations, including its honor code, or for violation of federal, state, or local laws.

### FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

The Higher Education Act mandates that institutions of higher education establish minimum standards of satisfactory academic progress for students receiving federal aid. Wake Forest University makes these minimum standards applicable to all programs funded by the federal government. Certain federal aid programs have higher academic and/or other requirements, which are communicated to recipients. To maintain academic eligibility for federal aid, a student must:

- Complete the requirements for a master of divinity degree within a maximum number of hours attempted (including transfer hours) of 135. During a semester in which a student drops courses or withdraws, the maximum number of hours attempted includes those hours attempted as of the earlier of (1) the withdrawal date, or (2) the last day to drop a course without penalty (as published in the academic calendar).
- Pass at least two-thirds of those hours attempted (including pass/fail courses, and hours attempted as a visiting or unclassified student) in the School of Divinity. *Incompletes* count as hours attempted, unless from a non-credit course. *Audited* classes do not count as hours attempted. During a semester in which a student drops courses or withdraws, hours attempted includes those hours attempted as of the earlier of (1) the withdrawal date, or (2) the last day to drop a course without penalty (as published in the academic calendar). For purposes of this policy, hours attempted also include all instances in which a course is repeated.
- Maintain the following minimum cumulative grade point average on all graded hours attempted (including *incompletes* from graded courses, but excluding pass/fail courses) in the undergraduate schools of the University:

for graded hours attempted:  
at least 9, fewer than 135

a minimum cum. GPA of:  
2.67

The Wake Forest University grade point average calculation also excludes pass/fail courses. In cases where a student repeats a course for which he or she received a grade of C- or lower, the cumulative grade point average is calculated by considering the course as attempted only once, with the grade points assigned reflecting the highest grade received. However, this provision does not apply to any course for which the student has received the grade of F in consequence of an honor code violation. During a semester in which a student drops courses or withdraws, all graded hours attempted in the undergraduate schools of the University includes those graded hours attempted as of the earlier of (1) the withdrawal date, or (2) the last day to drop a course without penalty (as published in the academic calendar).

The policy on satisfactory academic progress applies only to the general eligibility for aid consideration. There are other federally-mandated requirements a student must meet to receive federal aid. For instance, certain federal loan programs also require either the passage of a period of time or the advancing of a grade level between annual maximum borrowing, regardless of general eligibility for aid. Other general student eligibility requirements for a student to receive federal financial aid are listed in Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid, a publication of the U.S. Department of Education.

#### APPEAL PROCEDURE

**Denial of aid** under this policy may be **appealed in writing** to the Committee on Scholarships and Student Aid and mailed to P.O. Box 7246, Winston-Salem, NC 27109-7246, or delivered to the Office of Student Financial Aid, Reynolda Hall Room 4.

The Committee may grant a **probationary reinstatement** of one semester (in exceptional cases this period may be for one full academic year) to any student, upon demonstration of extenuating circumstances documented in writing to the satisfaction of the Committee. Examples of extenuating circumstances and appropriate documentation include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: illness of the student or immediate family members – statement from physician that illness interfered with opportunity for satisfactory progress; death in family – statement of student or minister; temporary or permanent disability – statement from physician. During a probationary period, students are considered to be making satisfactory academic progress under this policy and may continue to receive aid. A determination of satisfactory academic progress for any period of enrollment after the probationary period is made, upon the student's written request, at the end of the probationary period. **Reinstatement** after probation can be made only after the student has received credit for the appropriate percentage of work attempted with the required cumulative grade point average. Any student determined ineligible for any academic year may request a **special review** at the end of one semester or summer term and may thereby be reinstated for all or part of the academic year. The student must request any such mid-year review in writing; otherwise only one determination of satisfactory academic progress will be made each academic year. Reinstatement cannot be made retroactive.