

## STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS FOR FINANCIAL AID

All students receiving federal financial aid (Pell Grant, College Work Study, Supplemental Grant, or William D. Ford Direct Loan) must make satisfactory academic progress. Academic progress must be monitored for all terms of enrollment, whether or not financial aid was received. In accordance with federal guidelines, students receiving federal financial aid at Southern Union must meet the following requirements:

1. Time frame: Students may receive financial aid for a period of time not to exceed 1 ½ times the normal length of their specific program of study. For example, students in an Associate in Science Degree requiring 60 credit hours will have a maximum of 90 hour to complete the program. Students who transfer from other colleges will have all credit hours accepted by Southern Union included in the 90-hour total. The length of programs may vary.
2. Grade Point Average Standard: Each student will be expected to meet or exceed the following GPA at the indicated points in his/her program of study:

<u>Credit Hours</u>	<u>Minimum Cumulative GPA</u>
12-21 semester hours	1.50
22-32 semester hours	1.75
33+ semester hours	2.00

Transfer credits (if applicable) are not included in GPA calculation.

3. Pace Standard: Each student must earn two-thirds of all the hours he/she attempts in order to complete a program in the time frame allowed. For example, a student who has taken 30 hours should have earned at least 20 hours. If a student repeats a course which was previously successfully completed, the credit hours obtained the second time the course is attempted do not count toward the minimum number of academic hours required for program completion. Withdrawals count as hours attempted but not earned.
4. Developmental courses: A student may not enroll in the same developmental course more than three times and continue to receive financial assistance. A federal financial aid recipient may not receive aid for more than 30 semester hours of developmental work. Also, effective beginning Fall Semester 2011, developmental hours taken will be included when determining a student's grade point average and pace standards progress for financial aid, including the maximum time frame allotment.
5. Academic suspension: When a student is suspended, whether the student serves the suspension or is readmitted upon appeal, the student is not eligible to receive financial aid for the duration of the suspension. To regain eligibility, the student must attain the minimum cumulative GPA required for the number of credit hours attempted, or make a 2.0 GPA for the term (taking 12 or more hours for that term).
6. Change in program: A student may change his/her program of study; however, this may cause the student to exceed the maximum time frame for financial aid. All hours attempted in all programs are counted in the maximum time frame allowed for the student's current program of study.
7. Review process: Academic progress will be assessed at the time a student is awarded financial aid, and reviewed each academic year.
8. Regaining eligibility: In order to regain eligibility, a student must attend Southern Union at his/her own expense until the standards outlined in this policy are met.
9. Appeal Process: A student who loses his/her eligibility for financial aid because of a failure to meet the academic progress requirements may appeal if there are extenuating circumstances. The student must submit a completed Financial Aid Appeal Form and supporting documentation of the extenuating circumstances. The student will be allowed to appeal one time. All appeals will be reviewed by the Financial Aid Committee and the decision of the committee is final. Each student will be notified in writing as to the outcome of his/her appeal. An approved appeal is void after three (3) consecutive semesters of non-enrollment.
10. Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year, the Pell Grant duration of eligibility will be 600%, which is the equivalent of 12 full-time semesters. The new Pell Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) limit of 600% will apply to all Pell recipients regardless of when they first began receiving Pell Grant funds.