



BROWN

FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The academic progress of all federal financial aid recipients must meet minimum standards set forth by the Federal Government in order for the student to receive federal financial aid. Minimum standards for Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP) apply to all recipients of federal and/or state assistance. Although FASAP requirements to maintain financial aid eligibility differs from Brown University’s academic standing requirements administered by The College and the Committee on Academic Standing (CAS), the requirements set forth by CAS are as stringent as FASAP requirements. The Office of Financial Aid is represented on CAS and the decisions made by that committee will determine if a student is meeting FASAP. Therefore, students must always meet Brown CAS standards to receive financial aid unless CAS makes an exception due to extraordinary mitigating circumstances. Brown University ensures that all federal aid recipients are meeting FASAP each academic year following both the fall and spring semesters; otherwise the student is deemed ineligible for federal financial aid.

FASAP STANDARDS

FASAP standards are required to include both a qualitative measure and a quantitative measure. Brown University’s interpretations of these regulations, as well as related policies are outlined herein.

Qualitative Measure: Brown University students do not receive credit for courses completed with any grade lower than C. Since Brown does not calculate a ‘grade point average,’ the Office of Financial Aid considers students to have at least the equivalent of a C average if they have passed at least half the courses attempted each year.

Quantitative Measure: This standard measures the number of courses completed compared to the required number of credits to complete a student’s degree. Brown’s standard, as established by CAS, is higher than that specified in the federal regulations.

The published length of a Bachelor’s degree program is four years (or eight semesters). However, when there are extraordinary circumstances that affect their ability to complete the program in four years, a student may petition CAS to allow for additional semesters to complete the program. When a student attends more than eight semesters, institutional and/or federal aid may be reduced or eliminated based on the number of semesters required to complete the degree and the student’s enrollment history.

CAS guidelines state that Brown undergraduates are generally expected to satisfactorily complete four courses each semester for a total of 32 courses in eight semesters. Students *must* achieve a passing grade in a minimum of 30 courses in eight semesters in order to graduate. The following chart indicates the minimum cumulative completed course totals necessary each semester for Good Standing (GS), Warning (W), Serious Warning (SW), or Suspension (S), as established by CAS. These minimums also meet federal FASAP standards for the purpose of financial aid eligibility. In lieu of suspension, CAS may designate a student as Serious Warning based on mitigating circumstances. In this case, the student would be considered on Financial Aid Probation.

		Number of Courses Completed after Designated Semester Yields the Following CAS Status:			
	Semester Enrolled:	Good Standing	Warning	Serious Warning	Suspension
First Year	1	3	2	1	0
	2	7	6	5	4
Second Year	3	11	10	9	8
	4	15	14	13	12
Third Year	5	18	17	16	15
	6	22	21	20	19
Fourth Year	7	26	25	24	23
	8	30	--	--	--

CAS - Committee on Academic Standing

FASAP - Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress

* Please review Mitigating Circumstances and Loss of Assistance for further details about potential loss of aid.

These standards are based on full-time enrollment. Students approved for a reduced course load will be expected to complete the same *percentage* of courses attempted as outlined above for full-time students. FASAP review for students attending less than full time will be reviewed at the same intervals as full-time students. For example, a student taking two courses per semester would be expected to progress at a rate that is twice as long as a student taking four courses.

MONITORING FASAP

The Office of Financial Aid, as a member of CAS, reviews student records to determine whether the student has met FASAP requirements. If a student has not satisfactorily earned the number (or % of courses) attempted, the student is considered to have failed FASAP requirements. Students not meeting FASAP will either be placed on Financial Aid Probation (see **Financial Aid Probation**) or will not be eligible for federal financial aid (See **Loss of Assistance**).

FINANCIAL AID PROBATION

A student must pass five courses by the end of the first year, thirteen courses by the end of the second year and twenty courses by the end of the third year or be subject to suspension or dismissal by CAS. A student, who does *not* pass these minimums, but is allowed by CAS to remain enrolled, *might* continue to receive assistance on a Financial Aid Probation. To do so, a student must have *serious mitigating circumstances*. The purpose of the probation period is to provide the student an opportunity to return to an acceptable standard without loss of financial assistance. A Financial Aid Probation is issued to the student, advising them that their financial aid is in jeopardy unless they meet the requirements of CAS and their academic plan.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Even though a student failed to meet minimum academic requirements, CAS will consider extraordinary situations that have impacted the student's academic performance. CAS has the power to authorize that mitigating circumstances be taken into consideration, which therefore exempts the student from FASAP requirements for the particular academic period under review. This period of review is dictated by the judgment of CAS and may extend beyond one semester. Examples of mitigating circumstances are death or critical illness in the immediate family, the student's own serious illness or injury, and natural disasters.

If CAS allows the student to continue enrollment based on extraordinary mitigating circumstances, the student would then be allowed to receive aid on probationary status. The student would retain financial aid eligibility as long as the student meets all requirements of CAS and their academic plan.

LOSS OF ASSISTANCE

If a student does not meet the minimum standards required at Brown University, and if no mitigating circumstances (as authorized by CAS) exist, then the student would lose eligibility for assistance for the subsequent semesters. The student would remain ineligible to receive aid each semester thereafter until standards for reinstatement of aid are met (see **Reinstatement of Aid**). Loss of Assistance can impact any of the following federal resources: Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Direct Stafford Loan, Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS), Federal Work-Study (FWS) and all other University financial assistance. A student who has lost eligibility based on their academic standing is not eligible for any assistance through Brown University and will be considered ineligible for federal or state funding processed through the Office of Financial Aid. This would include the loss of eligibility for financial aid while studying away/abroad at another institution.

REINSTATEMENT OF AID

If a student has lost eligibility for aid due to failure to meet CAS/FASAP requirements, but then is readmitted to the University with a documented academic plan approved by CAS, they will be entitled to a reinstatement of aid on a FASAP Probation status. Furthermore, this probationary status will apply for each subsequent consecutive semester thereafter, provided the student meets all requirements of CAS and their academic plan.

ACADEMIC SUSPENSION

When CAS standards are not met and no mitigating circumstances exist, CAS suspends the student's enrollment. All financial assistance would cease at that time.

WITHDRAWAL AND IMPACT TO FASAP

When a student withdraws in sufficient time to receive any portion of a tuition refund based on the Brown University Refund Policy, such courses will not factor into the FASAP equation for attempted courses.

INCOMPLETE/REPEATED COURSES/TRANSFER CREDITS

A student earns no credit for an incomplete course. However, the course is counted in the number attempted. Courses that are repeated are treated the same as any other course. In other words, both attempts are counted in the FASAP (SAP) equation for number attempted. Transfer credits accepted towards the student's educational program count as both attempted and completed hours.

COMPLETION OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Once students have completed all academic requirements for a degree, they are ineligible for any further financial aid, federal or otherwise.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information regarding Brown University's academic standards, please address all inquiries to:

Committee on Academic Standing (CAS)

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