

New SAP policy – effective fall 2014

If a student has a zero-percent course completion rate during a single semester, s/he will be Ineligible for Aid as of the subsequent semester.

Q: Can you give an example of a student who would be Ineligible because of this policy?

A: I will give you two examples!

Student XYZ is enrolled in ENG 121, MAT 090 and COM 220 this fall. She withdraws from ENG 121 midway through the semester. She later earns a “U/D” in MAT 090 and an “F” in COM 220. She will be Ineligible as of Spring 2015. Student ABC is enrolled in ENG 099 this fall. She withdraws from the course. She also will be Ineligible as of Spring 2015.

Q: If a student withdraws from only one class will he or she be Ineligible for Aid?

A: This policy affects only students who completely fail and/or withdraw from all of their courses during a semester (0% course completion for the semester). Withdrawing from just one course would not make one Ineligible for Aid unless he or she was enrolled in only one course for the semester (which will happen, especially during the summer semester).

Q: Is the student able to appeal their Ineligibility?

A: They do have the right to appeal, and we encourage them to. The Appeals Committee will review each student’s extenuating circumstances and decide whether or not the student should continue to receive aid. (Although this policy is new, I can tell you that the percentage of approved SAP appeals we’ve receive in the past, based on the other SAP criteria, is high. Approximately 70% of appeals are approved.)

Q: Is an approved appeal good for only one term?

A: No, if an appeal is approved, the Committee approves the student to complete their program of study at RRCC. As long as the student continues to pass all attempted credit hours, the student remains financial aid eligible.

Q: What grades are not considered passing?

A: Grades of F, U, I, W, AW, Z, U/D, U/F, SP, and AU are considered not passing.

Q: What if a student receives “I” grades?

A: If the “I” causes them to not meet SAP standards, they will be Ineligible for Aid. The letter the student is sent asks them to contact our office once their grades have posted. We could manually adjust their SAP code based on the updated grade information.

Q: Is this policy retroactive?

A: No, it is effective as of this fall.

Q: How long will they be Ineligible?

A: If they are Ineligible for Aid, the student may do one of the following to become aid eligible again at RRCC:

- The student may submit an appeal, which we highly encourage if they had extenuating circumstances, such as a death in the family, hospitalization, military duty, etc.
- The student may pay out of pocket until he or she meets the SAP standards.
- The student may attend another Title IV (aid) eligible school and receive their aid there. (By providing an official transcript from the other school to RRCC’s Financial Aid Office, the student’s SAP code could be manually adjusted.)