

# Financial Aid Information for Advisors

(Not to Be Handed Out)

## Tracking Progress

Academic performance affects students' financial aid eligibility. In order to receive financial aid, students must maintain good academic standing in three areas:

**Grade Point Average** (GPA) – Must be maintained at 2.0 or higher.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress** (SAP) – Must be maintained at 66% or higher.

SAP mandates that at any given time a student must have successfully completed 66% of the courses that he or she has attempted. This is a cumulative measure and should be checked each semester. Courses for which a student takes a grade of **W** (withdrawal) figure into this measurement.

### Example 1

|   |  |
|---|--|
| A student has taken 45 credits: failed 9 of them, withdrew from 12 credits, and passed 24. What is her SAP? | $\frac{24 \text{ (passed)}}{45 \text{ (Attempted)}} = 53\%$ <p><b>This student is not in good academic standing.</b></p> |
|---|--|

## 150% of Time

Students can receive aid while completing up to 150% of time (credit hours) in their program. However, if they cannot complete in this amount of time, aid will be suspended. This is often an issue for students who repeatedly switch programs, or who fail and repeat several courses.

### Example 2

The Liberal Studies program (AALS) is a 62 credit program. Financial aid can be applied to 100% of those credits (62) and up to another 50% (31). Therefore, a student can receive aid for as many as 93 credits.

A student completes 45 credits in Business Accounting, and then decides to go into Liberal Studies. Only 12 of the general education credits that he has taken transfer into Liberal Studies. Will he have enough aid to finish the AALS Degree?

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Credits Allowed               | 93 (150%)   |
| Credits Used                  | - 45 (Includes all courses taken at KVCC regardless of major) |
| Credits of Aid Remaining      | 48  |
| Credits Needed to Finish AALS | 51 (62-12 = 51)   |

**The number of credits needed exceeds credits remaining - Aid would be suspended.\***

\* Please note that as soon as it becomes apparent that a student can't finish within 150% of time, aid is suspended. In other words a student wouldn't be allowed to take 93 credits and then aid stops.

\*\* If a student is very close to finishing a degree and wants to change majors, it may be best to counsel him or her to complete the current degree first, as the 150% calculation resets once they earn a degree.

## Limits on Pell Grants

If you are working with a student who receives a Pell Grant as part of their financial aid (the majority of KVCC students do), it is important to know that Pell Grants have lifetime limits. A student can only receive 12 Full-Time semesters of Pell aid as they work toward an Associate's and/or Bachelor's degree.

If at the end of a first Associate's degree they haven't used all their Pell, they can use the remaining aid toward a second Associate's. However, if they plan to eventually go on for a Bachelor's degree it may not be in their best interest to matriculate into another degree at KVCC. They may want to transfer (using their Pell at a higher-cost institution) and pay for any additional KVCC classes out of pocket.

Once a student earns a Bachelor's degree they are no longer eligible for aid; not even for second Bachelor's.

## Withdrawing From a Class (After Add/Drop)

If a student withdraws from a course or courses after Add/Drop but remains in at least one course they generally will not have to repay money to the College.

If a student withdraws from all of their courses after Add/Drop and before 60% of the semester is over, chances are they will have to repay some of the aid they received.

It's best to have the student contact financial aid before doing anything to their schedule after the Add/Drop Period.

## Repeating Courses

If a student fails a class or withdraws from a class, generally financial aid will pay for them to repeat it. However, if they have to repeat it a second time, they must do so at their own expense.

If a student were to have to pay to take a course a third time, that course would not count toward making them full-time for financial aid purposes. To be full-time he or she would have to take 12 credits in addition to the twice-repeated course.

When a student retakes a class and earns a higher grade, the higher grade replaces the lower grade in terms of GPA calculation. However, both grades will appear on the transcript.

## Financial Aid Probation/Suspension

| <b>Situation</b>               | <b>Financial Consequences</b>  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| First Semester of low GPA/SAP  | Letter of Warning sent but aid is not suspended  |
| Second Semester of low GPA/SAP | Aid is suspended but student may appeal. If appeal is approved student is put on probation and must meet the conditions of a specific academic plan. Generally this plan is to have no grades lower than a C in the next semester.<br><br>Sometimes passing classes with just Cs doesn't raise GPA/SAP enough, but if they are meeting the conditions of their plan they will get another semester of probation. |
| Third Semester of low GPA/SAP  | If student fails to meet conditions of their academic plan and SAP/GPA are still low, aid is suspended until they improve to minimum required. Student must pay for classes and books until acceptable GPA and/or SAP are met.   |

## The FAFSA

- Must be done every year
- Can be completed any time after January 1<sup>st</sup> for the upcoming school year
- Make sure students always go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- Should be completed before May 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered for Maine State Grants

### **Commonly Needed School FAFSA Codes**

KVCC – 009826

UMF – 002040

UMA – 006760

Thomas – 002052

USM – 009762

UMO – 002053

KVCC's College Board Code - 003475