

Standards of Academic Progress for Recipients of Federal and Institutional Financial Aid College of the Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross requires all recipients of federal, state and institutional financial aid to maintain academic good standing as outlined in the [College Catalog](#). **All Holy Cross funded aid awarded to students is limited to a total of eight (8) semesters.** In addition, the Education Amendments of 1980, and subsequent federal regulations, require institutions to define, publish and implement Standards of Academic Progress for students receiving federal financial aid. Recipients of all aid funded by the government and/or Holy Cross (including grants, scholarships, student or parent education loans and jobs) are subject to these Standards:

- A. **Academic Good Standing (GPA):** in general, students must meet the College's minimum requirements for academic good standing, as outlined in the [College Catalog](#), in order to receive financial aid.
- B. **Satisfactory Academic Progress (Credits Earned):** students must earn credits at the rates which are prescribed below in order to maintain eligibility for financial aid. The following letter grades do not result in credits earned: F, I, NP, W.

All students are expected to complete degree requirements in eight semesters and are enrolled full-time. The Standards of Academic Progress ensure that no student takes longer than 150% of the normal time to complete his/her degree. For example, it is necessary to complete 32 units in order to meet degree requirements. After attempting 150% of 32 units (i.e. 48 units), a student would no longer be eligible for financial aid. The time to degree completion includes all courses attempted including grades received of F, I, NP and W.

Courses taken by current Holy Cross students at other colleges and universities may be accepted in transfer: 1) if they satisfy degree requirements, that is, if they are used to remove deficiencies or to fulfill major or common requirements; or 2) if they satisfy requirements for College-sponsored academic programs, that is, if they satisfy requirements for minors or concentrations. Online, hybrid or blended courses require additional approval by the class dean and are limited to two courses. Students can refer to the [College Catalog](#) for additional information.

The chart below outlines the **minimum** requirements for Academic Good Standing (minimum semester GPA) and for Satisfactory Academic Progress (minimum cumulative credits earned) for recipients of **financial aid**. To continue to be eligible for federal Title IV funding, a student must earn at least 75 percent of all attempted credits in each academic year of study **and** maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 1.75 through the first and second semesters, 1.85 in the third semester and 2.0 thereafter. Only courses taken at Holy Cross will raise a student's GPA. **All Holy Cross funded aid is limited to eight semesters.** Should it be determined that a student becomes ineligible for federal aid, he/she will also not be eligible for funding from Holy Cross.

Transfer students will be placed on the chart based on the level determined at the point of admission (number of transfer credits accepted). Such students will then be evaluated using the criteria listed.

The Standards of Academic Progress are reviewed on a semester basis, at the conclusion of the fall semester and again at the conclusion of the spring semester after grades have been posted. **Failure to maintain these Standards will result in a Financial Aid Warning. Students may receive financial aid while in a Warning status.** However, after one semester in the Warning status the student must regain satisfactory academic progress or will lose all financial aid eligibility (federal and institutional) in the following semester. Students terminated from federal aid for failure to maintain these Standards must achieve all stated grade point average and cumulative credits earned requirements for his/her academic year level before aid can be reinstated. Students who are terminated and who wish to return with aid for the following semester may use the time between semesters to accomplish re-admittance, achieve the minimum cumulative credits earned requirement, or complete courses for which the grade I (Incomplete) has been assigned.

Students will be notified in writing by the Financial Aid office when failure to maintain academic progress results in a Financial Aid Warning or the loss of financial aid. In cases where students are no longer eligible for financial aid, **appeals of such a decision, based on mitigating circumstances, must be made in writing by the student to the Financial Aid office within two weeks of notice.** Appeals must include a written academic plan approved by the student's academic dean. Appeals will be evaluated by the Financial Aid office, and a written decision will be forwarded to the student within two weeks of the appeal.

If the appeal is approved, the student will be put on Financial Aid Probation and will be eligible for one probationary semester of financial aid. Upon the conclusion of the probationary semester, the student must have regained satisfactory academic progress, or will no longer be eligible for federal or institutional financial aid.

Undergraduate Standards of Academic Progress		
Semesters	Minimum Semester GPA	Minimum Cumulative Units Earned Required
1	1.75	
2	1.75	6
3	1.85	
4	2.00	12
5	2.00	
6	2.00	18
7	2.00	
8	2.00	25
9 *	2.00	
10 *	2.00	32

**Student no longer eligible for Holy Cross funded aid beyond eight semesters.*