



UC Hastings Law SAN FRANCISCO

Federal Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards JD Program

Federal financial aid regulations stipulate that students who wish to receive federal financial aid must be in good standing and making satisfactory academic progress ("SAP") toward a degree. At least annually, typically at the conclusion of the spring semester, UC Hastings measures students' progress toward degree completion using both qualitative (grades) and quantitative (pace) standards in accordance with the federal regulations (together, "FA SAP Standards"). Students must meet both the qualitative and the quantitative standards in order to be considered as making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree.

These regulations apply to all JD students. Additionally, they apply to all coursework attempted, including coursework for which the student did not receive federal financial aid. See the grid below for an explanation of what is included as attempted units:

COURSEWORK	CONSIDERED ATTEMPTED UNITS
Transfer Coursework	Coursework eligible for transfer credit is counted as both units attempted and units completed.
Repeat Coursework	Repeated courses are counted both times as attempted units.
Withdrawals & Leaves of Absences	Withdrawals and Leaves of Absence from the College after the first day of classes during a semester count as units attempted unless the student does not attend any classes for the given semester and receives a 100% refund of all fees.
Incompletes	Coursework still in process (Incomplete) is included as units attempted. The result of the Incomplete enters the quantitative pace calculation either when a grade is received or when the allotted time for completion expires. An incomplete that is not removed in accordance with Academic Regulations is converted to an administrative F and the student receives no credit.

Students must be in compliance with all FA SAP Standards, in addition to the academic requirements set forth in the [UC Hastings Academic Regulations](#).

QUALITATIVE STANDARD

Students who enter the College as first-year students or as transfer students in the Fall 2018 Semester or thereafter must maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA) to be eligible for federal financial aid. All other JD students must maintain a minimum 2.2 cumulative GPA to be eligible for federal financial aid. A student who ends an academic year with less than the applicable minimum cumulative GPA is not eligible for federal financial aid. There is an appeal process set forth below.

QUANTITATIVE STANDARD (PACE)

Students in the JD program may receive federal financial aid for a maximum of eight semesters which may be spread over a maximum of five years. The Director of Financial Aid may grant exceptions to the

five year limitation upon a showing of extraordinary and compelling circumstances through the appeal process. However, no student who has been enrolled for eight semesters may receive federal financial aid in future semesters attempted. (see UCH Academic Regulation II.D.401-402)

In addition, to meet the quantitative standard, a student must receive a passing grade in at least the minimum number of units required and at the minimum completion rate required as indicated in the following chart for graduation in eight semesters:

Standard Unit Requirement for Graduation in 6 Semesters					
Year of Study	Standard # Units	Standard Cumulative Units Required			
1st Year	30	30			
2nd Year	28	58			
3rd Year	28	86			

Minimum Unit Requirement for Graduation in 8 Semesters					
Year of Study	Standard # Units	Standard Cumulative Units Required	Minimum % Completion Required	Minimum Units	Minimum Cumulative
1st Year	30	30	50%	15	15
2nd Year	28	58	60%	20	35
3rd Year	28	86	75%	29	64
4th Year (If required)			100%	22	86

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID SAP APPEAL PROCESS

Federal financial aid SAP evaluations occur at least annually, typically after spring grades are complete. Students who fail to meet FA SAP Standards are placed on financial aid suspension and are no longer eligible to receive federal financial aid. The Financial Aid Office will send an email notice to such students advising them that their federal financial aid has been suspended. Upon receiving the notice, a student has 30 calendar days to submit a written appeal to the Director of Financial Aid. Appeals by students who have been academically disqualified and are not reinstated will not be considered or approved.

Before an appeal is filed, students are required to meet with the Assistant Dean of Students to explore ways of eliminating academic deficiencies and to establish a realistic academic plan toward graduation.

The appeal must include all of the following:

- (i) An explanation of the circumstances that led to the inability to make SAP;
- (ii) Information about what has changed that will now allow the student to make SAP; and
- (iii) An academic plan of study that includes a means by which to measure the student's progress at the end of each semester, designed with the Assistant Dean of Students to ensure that the student completes the JD degree requirements within eight semesters and five years.

The appeal and the accompanying academic plan will be reviewed by the Federal Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Committee ("SAP Committee"). If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed on federal financial aid probation ("Financial Aid Probation") for one semester. During the probationary semester, the student has the opportunity to execute the academic plan submitted in the appeal to the SAP Committee and meet the specific requirements set forth therein to regain federal financial aid eligibility. Financial Aid Probation may be extended for one additional semester if the Assistant Dean of Students determines that the student is meeting the requirements set forth in the approved academic plan. If the Assistant Dean of Students determines that the student has not met the requirements set forth in the approved academic plan, the student will no longer be eligible for federal financial aid.

REINSTATEMENT

Students who have had their federal financial aid eligibility suspended for failing to maintain FA SAP Standards or whose FA SAP appeal was denied, may regain federal financial aid eligibility by bringing themselves into compliance with the qualitative and quantitative components of the FA SAP Standards. However, students who have exceeded the maximum quantitative timeframe of eight semesters cannot regain eligibility through the reinstatement process.