

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory Academic Progress is achieved by maintaining an appropriate academic average and a minimum number of successfully completed hours. The purpose of the Satisfactory Academic Progress standard is to make students aware of the minimal rate at which they must progress toward graduation if a degree is to be awarded within a 10 semester period. The standard provides clear feedback to students about their academic standing at the university and assists the university in identifying students who are in need of academic intervention so that the university can provide these students with support and opportunities for improvement if they fall below the stated standards. Niagara University reviews Satisfactory Academic Progress at the end of every payment period (fall, spring, and summer semesters). Students on Academic Alert, Academic Warning, and Academic Probation (if reinstated) are eligible to receive institutional and federal aid.

Satisfactory Academic Progress occurs when a student earns a quality average of 2.0 (C) with an average of 12 credit hours completed each full time semester.

When a student fails to achieve a quality point average of 2.0 (C) with an average of 12 credit hours completed each semester, the student is placed on **Academic Alert**. First-year students on Academic Alert are required to participate in the Academic Success Program.

When a student's achievement level is no longer acceptable to the university, the student is subject to dismissal from the university. Students who are subject to dismissal are notified of their status by the dean of their college.

The first time a student is subject to dismissal, the student receives an automatic waiver of the dismissal. The student will be permitted to remain matriculated at Niagara University and will be on **Academic Warning** for the following semester. First-year students on Academic Warning are required to participate in the Academic Success Program.

Students who are subject to dismissal for a second or subsequent time may appeal the dismissal if the student has reason to believe there are circumstances that should be considered. The circumstances under which a student can submit an appeal include: death of a relative, injury or illness of the student, or other special circumstances.

To appeal a dismissal, a student must submit a letter of appeal to the Satisfactory Academic Progress Committee. The letter must include:

1. A description of why the student failed to make SAP
2. An explanation of what has changed in the student's situation that would enable him/her to demonstrate SAP in the next evaluation period
3. A description of how the student will meet SAP during the next evaluation period, or, in the case where it will take more than one semester to regain SAP, an academic plan that, if followed, will enable him/her to make SAP in a specific timeframe.

Students who submit an appeal of dismissal are encouraged to contact their dean's office to discuss their academic status and identify their options for regaining SAP. Information about Satisfactory Academic Progress and the appeal process can also be found on myNU.

The SAP committee will review the letter of appeal and will make a decision to accept or deny the appeal. If the committee accepts the appeal, the student will be readmitted to Niagara University and will be on Academic Probation for the semester of reinstatement. If the committee denies the appeal, the student will be dismissed. Dismissal requires total separation from the university.

A student may appeal the decision of the Satisfactory Academic Progress Committee to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs (AVPAA) for Programs and Policies. The decision of the AVPAA will be final.

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress

SEMESTER At completion of this full-time semester or its equivalent*	SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS A student who earns this cumulative grade point average and this number of credits is making satisfactory academic progress	ACADEMIC ALERT A student who earns a cumulative grade point average or successfully completes the number of credits in the stated range is on alert	Subject to ACADEMIC DISMISSAL A student who falls below this cumulative grade point average or these completed credit hours is subject to academic dismissal.**
	GPA/Credits	GPA/Credits	GPA/Credits
1	2.00/12	1.00-1.99/6-11	1.00/6
2	2.00/24	1.25-1.99/18-23	1.25/18
3	2.00/36	1.50-1.99/30-35	1.5/30
4	2.00/48	1.70-1.99/42-47	1.70/42
5	2.00/60	1.90-1.99/54-59	1.9/54
6	2.00/72	below 2.00/66-71	2.00/66
7	2.00/84	below 2.00/78-83	2.00/78
8	2.00/96	below 2.00/90-95	2.00/90
9	2.00/108	below 2.00/105-107	2.00/105
10	2.00/120	below 2.00/108-119	2.00/108
ACTION	None required	A student must sign a satisfactory academic progress (SAP) contract and must earn a 2.0 semester grade point average during the semester on alert.	A student may appeal the dismissal using the guidelines outlined in the Niagara University catalog.

* Equivalent full time semester: 15 credits equal the equivalent of one full-time semester and a total of 15 credits accumulated by part-time enrollment equals the equivalent of one full-time semester.

** The first time a student falls into this range, the student will be placed on academic warning. If a student falls into this range another time, s/he may submit an appeal to the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) committee for reinstatement. If the appeal is accepted by the committee, the student will be placed on academic probation.