Satisfactory Academic Warning

Students who have a Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) status of Warning have one semester to get into compliance with the three standards set in the college’s Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy. During the Warning semester students are still able to attend MWCC and use financial aid. However, if not back into compliance with the three standards of the college’s SAP Policy after the Warning semester, they risk moving into Suspension status.

SAP Standards

According to U.S. Department of Education regulations, students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order to continue to be enrolled and/or receive federal financial aid at MWCC. SAP Policy identifies the three standards used to measure student academic progress. These standards are:

- **GPA - Minimum GPA of 2.0**
  - Earn a 2.0 (“C”) or better overall GPA.

- **67% Pace or Completion Rate**
  - Complete and pass \( \frac{2}{3} \) or 67% of all courses you start. Withdrawals (“W”) and Failed classes (“F”) effect completion rate.

  *Example:* You register for 4 courses, at 3 credits each, but only complete and pass 2. Your completion rate is 50% therefore you are not meeting the Pace/Completion Rate requirement.

- **150% Timeframe**
  - Students must complete their academic program within 150% of the normal “time” or credits expected for their degree.

  *Example:* You are in a degree program that requires 60 credits to complete. You attempt 60 credits so you are at 100% of the attempted credits allowed for that program. But you still have classes to take to complete your major because the 60 credits includes classes that you failed and need to repeat, or you changed your major and have attempted some classes that no longer apply to your current major. Under SAP standards, you are allowed an additional 50% of credits. In this example, you are allowed an additional 30 credits (50% of the 60 required) for a total of 90 credits to complete the 60 credit program. If you attempt 90 or more credits, you will not meet the Timeframe standard of the policy.

When not meeting any of these three standards, students are placed on Financial Aid Warning for one semester. If you are unable to get back into Good Standing after your Warning semester, you will move into Financial Aid Suspension, and will be unable to access your financial aid until you have been approved through an appeal process.
Figuring out why you’re on Warning

To determine which of the three SAP standards you are not meeting, take a look at your Academic Transcript. Use the steps below to access your Academic Transcript:

From MWCC’s website:
> Log into IConnect using your username and password
> Click on the WebConnect icon on the top left
> Click on Student and Financial Aid tab
> Scroll toward the bottom and click on Academic Transcript* > Click Submit

Once you’ve got your transcript open, scroll to the bottom and under Transcript Totals (Undergraduate) check the following:
• Is your overall GPA below a 2.0?
• Divide your total earned hours by your total attempted hours and multiple by 100. Is that number is below 67 (67%)?
• Do you have more than 150% of the credits allowed for your program of study? A general rule of thumb is 90 or more attempted credits for an associate’s degree program, and 45 or more attempted credits for a certificate program puts you at the 150% mark. Check the number of credits for your program of study from MWCC’s website for specific numbers.

*Students who have academic issues or a past due bill will not be able to access their transcript.

Getting back in Good Standing:

Sometimes you can move out of Warning and back into Good Standing in one semester, and sometimes you cannot. Consider the following:
• If you fail a course, but then retake it and do better, the "F" does not factor into your GPA anymore. Retaking failed courses is a great way to quickly raise your GPA.
• If you consistently need to withdraw from courses, try starting the semester with fewer courses, or try a different course format. Withdrawals can count against you just as much as a failed course.
• Does your degree have a certificate built into it? If so, prioritize those classes so you can graduate with a certificate before continuing on to a full associate’s degree.
• Make use of the campus resources available to you. Tutoring is available both in person and online! https://mwcc.edu/academics/library-academic-support-center/freetutoring/
• Talk to your professor about questions regarding course material and how you can improve your grade. Contact information is provided on the course syllabus and on your Course Schedule in WebConnect.
• Mental health and disability counselors are available on the Gardner and Leominster campuses. Contact Student Services (978) 630-9855 to make an appointment.
• If you are struggling with issues like childcare and finances, the S.O.S. program can help connect you with services that can help. (978) 630-9255

If you have questions regarding SAP, contact Holly Kreidler-Phaneuf, Academic Counselor at hkreidlerphaneuf@mwcc.mass.edu or 978-630-9197/978-630-9109.