

MORAVIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Office of Enrollment

Frequently Asked Questions about Satisfactory Academic Progress

The U.S. Department of Education oversees the federal financial aid system. Federal funds are limited. Because of this limit, the Department of Education requires that financial aid administrators monitor the effectiveness of the use of these funds. The funds are intended to assist students in attaining a degree. Consequently funds are only to be awarded to students who are academically progressing toward attaining their degree.

It is the responsibility, of the Office of Enrollment at Moravian Theological Seminary, to monitor each financial aid recipient's academic work and determine if the recipient is progressing academically and eligible for federal financial aid. This academic progress toward attaining a degree is called Satisfactory Academic Progress. Failure to make Satisfactory Academic Progress can lead to a student being ineligible to receive federal financial aid.

Listed below are some frequently asked questions concerning Satisfactory Academic Progress. The Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy is included in the Moravian Theological Seminary Financial Aid Policies and Procedures booklet. If you have additional questions or would like a copy of the Policies and Procedures booklet, please contact the Office of Enrollment.

What can affect my financial aid eligibility?

Students who are not achieving Satisfactory Academic Progress usually have experienced one or more of the following academic difficulties:

- received poor grades
- received incomplete grades
- withdrew from courses after the Drop/Add period
- withdrew from seminary

How is Satisfactory Academic Progress measured at MTS?

A student is considered to be making Satisfactory Academic Progress if:

- 1) The student has earned (completed) at least 70% or more of the total number of credits attempted. Attempted credit hours include any courses that a student is enrolled in, past the Drop/Add period. Withdrawals after the Drop/Add period, incompletes and failures are considered attempted but not earned.
- 2) Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5.
- 3) Complete all degree requirements within a maximum of 6 years.

What if I drop classes during the semester Drop/Add period — could this affect my academic progress?

No, this will not affect academic progress. The credits that you drop during the Drop/Add period will not be counted as credits attempted when calculating the percentage of credits earned, to determine academic progress.

Dropping classes during the Drop/Add period could however affect the amount of aid you are eligible to receive. If you receive aid as a full-time student you must be enrolled in at least 12 credits per semester.

If you receive aid as a part-time student you must be enrolled in at least 6 credits. You are not eligible for federal financial aid if you are taking less than 6 credits.

What happens to my financial aid eligibility if I withdraw from some of my courses after the Drop/Add period? Can withdrawing from a course now affect my financial aid in later semesters?

In most cases, your financial aid eligibility for the current semester will not change.

Withdrawing from a class in the current semester could affect your financial aid eligibility in the future. To remain eligible for financial aid, you must successfully complete a minimum of 70% of the total of all your classes since you began your studies at MTS and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5. Since this measurement is based on your cumulative academic work at MTS, accumulated withdrawals could affect your eligibility.

What happens to my financial aid eligibility if I withdraw from all of my courses after the Drop/Add period?

Withdrawing from all courses after the Drop/Add period is considered withdrawing from the seminary. If you do this before 60% of the academic semester has passed, your financial aid eligibility will be recalculated according to federal regulations. This recalculation will determine the amount of financial aid that has been earned during the weeks before you officially withdrew. You may have to return money to your lender or MTS, as determined by the calculation.

What is Financial Aid probation?

At the end of each semester, the academic transcripts for all students receiving financial aid are reviewed. A student is placed on financial aid probation when the student has failed to earn 70% of all credits attempted or has a cumulative GPA of less than 2.5. The student is eligible to receive financial aid for the next semester, the probationary semester.

At the end of the probationary semester, the student will either be removed from the probationary status because the cumulative GPA and % of earned credits standards are met, or the student will be suspended from receiving further financial assistance.

What is Financial Aid suspension?

After one semester of probation, if a student does not meet the standards for cumulative GPA and % of earned credits, they are no longer eligible for financial aid until they have taken classes, using their own funding, and have raised their GPA and % earned to meet the standards. Your eligibility to continue to enroll in classes at MTS while you are suspended will be based on the academic probation policy stated in the catalog.

If you have additional questions or would like to discuss the policy, please contact
the Director of the Office of Vocation and Enrollment
at 610-861-1512 or seminary@moravian.edu
or
the Director of Financial Aid at Moravian College
at 610-861-1330 or finaid@moravian.edu