



Financial Aid

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS STANDARDS

When you accept your financial aid award, you enter into a contract. You agree to successfully complete the number of units for which you receive payment and to make satisfactory progress toward your educational goal. Your progress will be evaluated at the end of each semester by the standards listed below.

This policy has been developed for students receiving federal financial aid to assist in academic planning and success. Federal regulations state that academic progress standards MUST include a review of periods of enrollment whether or not the student received aid. For the purposes of financial aid eligibility, Cuesta College students MUST meet the following minimum standards to be applied to units attempted at all accredited post-secondary institutions. These standards are applied to all previous college course work whether or not you received financial aid.

A. MINIMUM UNIT REQUIREMENTS: You are required to complete the minimum number of units per semester according to your Financial Aid Payment:

	<u>FALL/SPRING</u>	<u>SUMMER</u>
Full Time Payment:	12 units	4 units
Three-Quarter Time Payment:	9 units	3 units
Half Time Payment	6 units	2 Units
Les Than Half Time Payment	all units attempted	

NOTE: All Psych Tech Trimesters are funded at Full-Time payments.....12 units

Withdrawals (W), Repeats, Incompletes (I), No Credits (NC), Failing Grades (F), or units achieved by challenging courses are not considered units completed for financial aid purposes. All courses offered with units of credit at Cuesta College will be considered valid units, including basic skills courses.

B. GPA REQUIREMENTS: Students must maintain an overall cumulative GPA of 2.0 in all Cuesta College course work. Students who do not maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress are subject to Financial Aid Probation/Suspension.

FINANCIAL AID PROBATION

First-time financial aid applicants with a cumulative GPA below 2.0 from course work at Cuesta College or another institution may apply for financial aid and, if eligible, will be awarded for one semester only. This initial semester will be considered a probationary period.

Any student who does not maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress in any semester shall be placed on probation for the following semester. While on probation, the student will continue to receive grant aid, provided they agree to complete the minimum units for which they received payment (see A, above) in order to avoid Financial Aid Suspension; however, loan eligibility may be affected. At the end of the probation period, the student's academic progress will be reviewed again. Probationary status will be removed if the student has completed the minimum unit requirement for which they were paid (see A above) and has achieved a cumulative Cuesta GPA of 2.0. Students who do not make Satisfactory Academic Progress during the probationary semester will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension.

Students who receive financial aid and completely withdraw or receive 0 credits (F's) at the end of the semester will not receive a probationary semester and will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension.

FINANCIAL AID SUSPENSION

Students who are placed on Financial Aid Suspension are ineligible to receive financial aid. Students may request reinstatement of financial aid upon proof of completion of at least half time status with a cumulative 2.0 GPA.

Students who have had their financial aid eligibility suspended may file an appeal with the Financial Aid Advisory Committee, if they feel they had special circumstances that prevented them from making satisfactory progress (e.g. medical or family emergency). The committee will meet in person with the students filing the appeal. If the advisory committee grants mitigating circumstances for a semester of unsatisfactory progress, financial aid eligibility will be extended for one semester. This semester will be considered a probationary period.

Students may receive an approved appeal only once while at Cuesta College.