Academic Progress Policy for Students
Receiving Federally Funded Student Financial Aid

General
1. Federal and state regulations require a student to be enrolled and making measurable progress toward a degree or certificate in order to receive federal or state funded student financial aid.

2. This policy applies to funds received through the Federal Pell Grant, Federal College Work Study, Federal Perkins Loan, the Federal Supplement Educational Opportunity Grant, the Federal Family Education Loan Program and state funded and guaranteed programs.

3. Any appeal or request for special consideration of the result of this policy must be made in writing to the Director of Student Financial Aid and will be reviewed by that official and the Vice President for Student Affairs.

4. Students who are receiving financial assistance are encouraged to contact the Director of Student Financial Aid before changing their registration.

Institutional Academic Suspension

A student who has been academically suspended will not be eligible for financial aid upon readmittance to the University. When the student returns to the University, he/she must pay his/her own expenses for one semester. In order to be reinstated on financial aid, the student must complete 12 semester hours and maintain a 2.00 grade point average for that semester.

Measurable Academic Progress

1. A full-time student seeking a baccalaureate degree will be considered eligible for federally funded student aid for six academic years (12 regular semesters plus summer terms until the twelfth semester). A full-time student seeking an associate degree will be considered eligible for federally funded student financial aid for eight semesters. Any less than full-time semester will be considered proportionally.

2. All semesters attended will be counted whether or not a student received financial aid during the semester.

3. A student will be considered to be making measurable academic progress as a full-time student if the total credit hours earned (“D” or better) divided by the number of regular (fall and spring) semesters attended equals nine or more at the end of the first two semesters attended and ten credit hours for each succeeding semester. Summer school hours may be used to fulfill these requirements.

4. Students dropped from federal financial aid due to insufficient hours completed will be reinstated the semester following the completion of the required number of cumulative credits.

5. A repeat of a course will be considered one time only in credits hours earned.

6. An incomplete (I) will be counted as an “F” until such time as it is removed with a “D” or better.

7. Transfer credit will be evaluated in the same manner as credit received at Southern Arkansas University.

8. A student may completely withdraw ONE SEMESTER ONLY and return the next semester to receive all entitled financial aid. Upon withdrawing a second semester while on financial aid, the student will not receive aid for the next semester attended even if the number of semester hours attended and hours earned would allow for the receipt of financial aid funds; students must earn 12 hours on their own with at least a 2.00 grade point average in order to be eligible for reinstatement of aid.

9. To be considered for financial aid, the student’s grade point average must be as good as or better than University requirements for making satisfactory progress toward graduation.