



**Meridian Community College  
Office of Financial Aid  
Ivy Hall**

**Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy  
For Recipients of Title IV Federal Financial Aid**

In order to remain eligible to receive Title IV financial assistance at Meridian Community College, students must progress satisfactorily towards completion of an academic or vocational-technical program.

Title IV Federal Financial Aid consists of the following:

1. Federal Pell Grant
2. Federal College Work Study (FWS)
3. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
4. William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program

In order to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress, all students attempting one credit hour or more must have a **semester GPA of a 2.00**. In addition to the 2.0 GPA each semester, each student must complete 67% of all course-work attempted at MCC and applicable transfer work and maintain a certain cumulative GPA based on the cumulative hours attempted. An example of this pace is provided below.

Cumulative Sem. Hrs. Attempted:	From: To:	1 1	2 2	3 5	6 6	7 8	9 9	10 11	12 12	13 14	15 15	16 17	18 18	19 20	21 21
Must have Earned this Many credits:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
With at least this Cumulative Grade Point Average:		1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.75	1.75

Cumulative Semester Hours Attempted (including Ws)	1–18	19–40	41 – 93
Minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average	1.50	1.75	2.00

Financial aid standing is computed at the end of the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. Students are notified in writing by the Financial Aid Office at the end of each semester if they are placed on warning, suspension, or become ineligible due to attempted hours. The financial aid office will update their financial aid standing in BANNER and adjust financial aid accordingly. Students should note this standing is separate from the academic standing.

***Students may access Eaglenet to view their current financial aid standing.***

The following defines financial aid standings and other criteria for financial aid:

**Financial Aid Warning:** A student who fails to meet the minimum standards for satisfactory progress will be placed on warning for the following semester. During the warning semester, the student will continue to be eligible to receive Title IV aid.

**Financial Aid Suspension:** After a semester of warning, a student who does not meet the minimum standards will be placed on financial aid suspension. A student will not be eligible for Title IV financial aid until minimum standards are met.

**Maximum time:** A student will not be eligible for **any** federal financial aid at MCC after attempting **93 semester hours (this includes accepted transfer hours)** regardless of grade point average, cumulative hours earned, or change of program.

Hours attempted for which the student did not receive financial aid will be included for purposes of meeting satisfactory academic progress requirements.

Withdrawals: All withdrawals ("W") **will be counted as hours attempted** and will be considered when evaluating satisfactory academic progress for financial aid. Withdrawals will not be included in the calculation of the grade point average.

Incomplete Grades: Incomplete ("I") grades must be removed by the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> week of the succeeding semester or the "I" becomes an "F". The grade of "I" is not included when computing semester and cumulative grade point averages. Therefore, the grade earned by 9<sup>th</sup> week of the succeeding semester would be used in computing satisfactory progress for the end of that semester.

Repeated Courses: Repeated courses are not counted in the determination of the number of semester hours attempted and do not affect overall grade point average. Students cannot receive financial aid for more than two repetitions of a previously passed course. Students cannot receive financial aid for any repetition of a previously passed course due to the student failing other coursework. (Ex. Student fails Nursing I and has to repeat the entire semester. Financial aid will cover the failed class but not the other classes such as seminar).

Transfer Courses: Transfer students will enter MCC with the same status as a new student who has never attended college. The transfer courses which are applicable toward the student's degree at MCC will be included in the cumulative grade point average and will not affect the student's financial aid standing until the end of the semester in which the student transferred.

Remedial and Noncredit Courses: Remedial courses will be treated in the same manner as other college courses attempted. Noncredit courses will not be counted in hours attempted or used in computing grade point average; therefore, a student will not receive financial aid for these courses.

Audit Courses: **A student is not eligible for financial aid for audit courses.** Audit courses are not counted as hours attempted and are not used in computing grade point average.

Reinstatement of Eligibility: A student on financial aid suspension may attend Meridian Community College at his/her own expense unless also on academic suspension. The student must attain a 2.00 for the semester and attain the minimum cumulative grade point average indicated by the satisfactory academic progress policy for federal financial aid recipients in order to be reinstated.

Appeal Process: A student who has at least a 1.50 cumulative grade point average may appeal the suspension of financial aid. A completed appeal form must be submitted to the financial aid office. The form may be obtained in the Financial Aid Office or printed from the MCC web page. The appeal will be reviewed and determined whether the suspension is justified. Only exceptional circumstances or an improved academic record will be considered. The student will be notified in writing of the decision made within 20 business days. Students whose appeals are approved will be placed on financial aid probation and may be given an academic plan which they must follow. This plan will assure that they will be able to complete their degree with the timeframe to meet SAP. These students may only apply for a student loan after mid-term. At this time the student must provide a copy of his/her mid-term grades to the student loan officer for review. If the student has a "C" average at mid-term, he/she will be allowed to apply for a student loan after attending in person entrance counseling and submitting a budget worksheet to the loan officer. This does not replace the steps that have to be completed online for a student loan.

**Note: Financial aid suspension does not prevent students from attending MCC if they are not on academic suspension.**

#### **Student Consumer Information**

In compliance with Section 493A of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended, certain consumer information will be made available to any student or prospective student at Meridian Community College. This information will include a description of all financial aid programs, application procedures, eligibility requirements, criteria for recipient selection, a statement of the rights and responsibilities of students, means of payments and any other financial aid information. Information will also be made available concerning cost of attendance, academic programs, refund policy, student retention, the number and percentage of students completing programs if available, assistance for the disabled, and other general information pertaining to MCC. The financial aid office will provide this information to students requesting it or help students obtain the information.

Meridian Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion or age in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. Compliance with Section 504 is coordinated by Mrs. Deanna Smith, Dean of Student Services, 910 Highway 19 North, Meridian, MS 39307. 601-484-8895, Fax: 601-484-8635, email: [dsmith40@meridiancc.edu](mailto:dsmith40@meridiancc.edu). Compliance with Title IX is coordinated by Mr. Derek Mosley, Social Science Instructor, Smith Hall, 910 Highway 19 North, Meridian, MS 39307. 601-553-3453, Fax: 601-484-8635, email: [dmosley@meridiancc.edu](mailto:dmosley@meridiancc.edu).