The Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended and the final regulations set forth by the Department of Education in 34 CFR 668 require that institutions of higher education establish reasonable standards of "satisfactory progress." A student who does not meet these standards is not eligible to receive federally funded financial aid. In most instances, SIU shall make these standards applicable to all state and institutional aid programs for the purpose of maintaining a consistent and reasonable financial aid policy. However, nothing in this policy shall be construed as a reduction of external requirements by other federal, state, public, or private agencies when they award or control financial aid.

At SIU, Satisfactory Progress (SAP) is measured at the end of each spring semester, unless conditional eligibility was provided. If provided conditional eligibility, your SAP will be checked at the end of each semester. In order to receive federal financial aid funds, students must meet the 3 minimum requirements, including:

1. Required completion rates (Pass Rate Rule – 67% of hours attempted)
2. Required grade point average (GPA Rule – minimum 2.0)
3. Requirement of Maximum Hrs. (Max Hours Rule – Students must complete degree program before reaching 150% of the number of credits needed to complete their degree program.)

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS APPEALS PROCESS:

Any graduate student unable to receive financial aid due to not meeting any one of the three Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements shall have the opportunity to appeal, in writing, to explain, “mitigating circumstances”.

To appeal, the graduate student must arrange for two emails to be sent to the Graduate School at gaoffice@siu.edu:

1. An email from the graduate student seeking the appeal detailing the “mitigating circumstances”. The email must also include the graduate student’s DAWG Tag and the semester(s) they are seeking financial aid. The subject line of the email should read RE: Graduate Student SAP Appeal.
2. An email from the graduate student’s academic unit verifying the graduate student’s “mitigating circumstances”. The email must also include an estimate of when the graduate student will complete his/her degree and a plan, which details how the graduate student will complete his/her degree in the time estimated.
3. A student who wishes to appeal must have all documentation to the Graduate Assistantship Fellowship Office by the deadline: Spring - January 18; Summer- June 14; Fall- August 26.

Allow Ample Time for Review
Your appeal will be reviewed within 10 working days of the date you submit all required documentation to the Graduate Assistantship Fellowship Office. You will be sent a written notification as to the decision of your appeal. Failure to provide sufficient information or documentation will result in denial or delay of your appeal. Students will have the option of attending/enrolling in classes when an appeal is necessary. However, financial aid eligibility will not be calculated and released unless the appeal is approved.

The Graduate School will review the mitigating circumstances documented in the appeal of both the student and the academic unit. The Graduate School then will provide written notification to the Financial Aid Office concerning all graduate students who have been granted an exception for mitigating circumstances.

If the appeal is denied, the student is responsible for any balance owed to the University.