

SOM Satisfactory Academic Progress, Academic Probation and Review of Graduate Students

To make satisfactory academic progress (SAP), SOM graduate students are required to

- maintain a cumulative graduate GPA ≥ 3.00
- exclusively receive final grades of A, B, C, P or S in all course work
- secure a permanent advisor (if required by the Program)
- if in a PhD program, pass all candidacy examinations by the ninth semester of full-time enrollment
- pass all comprehensive examinations and final defenses attempted
- meet all Program requirements in a timely fashion including completion of all requirements for Ph.D. degrees, M.S. degrees and certificates in eight, six and six years, respectively
- follow all VCU, Graduate School, School of Medicine and Program guidelines

A student not making SAP will be placed on academic probation. Students on academic probation will be reviewed by their Program to determine whether they can realistically complete their current degree/certificate in a timely fashion.

Students placed on academic probation may be in violation of the SAP policy as administered by VCU Student Financial Services and therefore being on academic probation might impact financial aid eligibility. Students with questions about financial aid should consult with the SOM Office of Financial Aid. Denial or approval of appeals for SAP violations that impact financial aid do not influence academic probation.

If the student has a realistic path forward that leads to completion of the degree/certificate in a timely fashion, within 2 business weeks of the Program becoming aware of the situation, the Program should provide the student with a written and/or email notice indicating

- the expectations for SAP
- why the student is on academic probation
- what the student needs to do to make SAP and be cleared from academic probation
- the expected target date by which the student should complete the steps required to return to making SAP and be cleared from academic probation
- the possible consequences to the student should they remain on academic probation and not return to SAP by the target date

The student should confirm receipt and review of the notice and discuss the plan for returning to SAP and being cleared from academic probation with the Program Director and advisor (if assigned).

Typically, the target date for returning to SAP and being removed from academic probation should be the end of the semester in which the student is notified, but many factors inform the target date and therefore other target dates might be appropriate.

A student who does not return to SAP by the expected target date should be re-reviewed by the Program.

If the student does not have a realistic path forward that leads to completion of the degree/certificate in a timely fashion, the Program should discuss the student with the ADGE within 2 weeks of becoming aware of the situation to identify appropriate academic actions including, but not limited to, dismissal.

Approved: SOM Graduate Programs Committee, 2026.07