

## COMMON STUDENT SITUATIONS:

# WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID?

If you are receiving Financial Aid, you should be considering both [academic progress](#) and [financial aid eligibility](#) when faced with important decisions. This chart is intended to help you understand common academic situations and the impact the situation could have on both your ability to succeed academically, as well as on your ability to receive financial aid in future terms.

What a student asks...	What Academic Advising says...	What Financial Aid says...
<b>"I may need to drop (withdraw) from a class."</b>	Dropping a class during a certain period in the semester gives a grade of W. By dropping a class before you get a failing grade of "E", you avoid the negative impact a grade of "E" has on your GPA (Grade Point Average).	Depending on the date of withdrawal, financial aid disbursements (payments) for the term can be affected. A "W" grade for a course can negatively affect your completion rate. If this class is the only (or last) class to be withdrawn during the term, you may be responsible for repaying financial aid funds.
<b>"I just failed a course!"</b>	Failing a course lowers your overall GPA. A failing grade may impact on your academic standing and it may affect entrance into your intended program of study.	A failed course lowers your GPA and your completion rate for courses. Both of these are measured to determine continued financial aid eligibility.
<b>"I would like to repeat a course to improve my grade."</b>	Repeating a course may help you to improve your GPA. The most recent grade in a repeated class is counted in your GPA.	A course that has been passed (with a D or higher) can be taken one more time with financial aid funds. Once a class has been passed for the second time, the class will not be paid for with financial aid in the future, if taken again. All attempts at the class will be counted toward Financial Aid Standards of Academic Progress.
<b>"Should I be a full-time or part-time student?"</b>	Take what you know you can successfully complete while still making progress towards your educational goal. Remember to estimate 2 hours of study each week for each hour of time spent in class.	This is your decision. Financial aid funds are available for all levels of enrollment (1-12 or more credit hours). Full-time enrollment is not an absolute requirement for federal aid.
<b>"I need to take a few semesters off and return to college in the future."</b>	In general, students can take breaks in enrollment at any time. However, some programs may not permit students to pick up where they left off. Talk to your advisor before deciding whether or not to take a semester off and learn how to re-enroll at the college in the future.	Be aware that loans may go into repayment typically 6 months after your last enrollment. Upon return to school, all credits on your transcript count toward Financial Aid Standards of Academic Progress regardless of change(s) in your academic program(s).

What a student asks...	What Academic Advising says...	What Financial Aid says...
<p><b>“I want to change my academic program.”</b></p>	<p>Students change majors for a variety of reasons (competitive standards, change of career plans, academic difficulty). Depending on the credits you have already earned, changing programs might mean that not all of your credits apply to the new program.</p>	<p>There is a limited amount of financial aid dollars (grants and loans) available for use. Changing your academic program can create eligibility issues for Federal Aid, because previous credit hours are still used to determine future eligibility and count toward that limit.</p>
<p><b>“I would like to earn a second Associate’s degree.”</b></p>	<p>Consult with an academic advisor to determine whether or not you can earn a second degree, and how credits you earned previously will apply to a second program. There may be concerns about overlapping coursework or residency requirements of which you should be aware.</p>	<p>When a student completes a degree, financial aid eligibility ends. If you want to pursue a second degree, you need to notify the Financial Aid Office to verify the second program and determine whether or not there is financial aid available to be used toward the costs of that second degree.</p>
<p><b>“I am on Academic Probation and cannot register for next semester.”</b></p>	<p>You have been placed on academic probation, because you have not met Columbus State’s Standards of Academic Progress. In order to register for the next semester, you must meet with an Academic Advisor to develop an individual plan for improving your overall GPA.</p>	<p>Financial aid eligibility is not affected by ability to register. However, if you have not met the Financial Aid Standards of Academic Progress, your financial aid eligibility will be affected and the use of federal aid might be restricted. A student on academic probation should contact the Financial Aid Office to determine their eligibility status for aid.</p>
<p><b>“I have been dismissed from Columbus State Community College.”</b></p>	<p>If you have been dismissed from the College, you may not enroll for the next semester. After one semester, you may petition for readmission to the College by meeting with an Academic Advisor.</p>	<p>A student can apply for federal student aid even while on dismissal. The application will be processed, but financial aid cannot be disbursed unless the student is actively enrolled and not on financial aid restriction.</p>
<p><b>“I have been dismissed from Columbus State for the second time.”</b></p>	<p>If you have been dismissed from the College for a second time, you must sit out for one calendar year. After one year has passed, you may begin the Academic Review process, during which approval to return to the College is determined by the Academic Review Board.</p>	<p>A student can apply for federal student aid even while on dismissal. The application will be processed, but financial aid cannot be disbursed unless the student is actively enrolled and not on financial aid restriction. Financial aid funds may be limited, due to required limitations on credit hours following second and future dismissals.</p>

**Financial Aid Standards of Academic Progress**

**GPA:** 1-16 cr.hrs. = **1.5**, 17-32 cr.hrs.=**1.6**, 33-43 cr.hrs.=**1.75**, 44-55 cr. hrs.=**1.90**, 55+ = **2.0**

**Completion Rate = 66.66%** of all courses attempted must be completed