

Veteran Administration (VA) Academic Progress Standards NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NICC is required by the Veteran's Administration (VA) to monitor academic progress for student who is receiving VA education benefits. If the academic progress standards are not met, the student receiving education benefits will be declared ineligible to receive them. *Note: other funding sources that the student may be receiving in conjunction with their VA benefits from federal, state and/or institutional sources, are subject to similar requirements outlined in NICC's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards policy.*

Minimum Standards

1. Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) - maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (C average) or better.
2. Completion Rate - successfully complete 67 percent or more of cumulative attempted credit hours including remedial and transfer credits. *Completion rate is calculated by taking the cumulative number of credits the student has successfully completed divided by the cumulative number of attempted credits.*

All transfer credit hours that have been accepted by NICC toward a student's academic program will be counted as both attempted and completed credits when evaluating a student's academic progress.

A student who has incomplete grades must follow the NICC Incomplete Grading Policy. Once incomplete grades are completed and a grade is submitted, the Registrar's Office will notify the Financial Aid Office. A student who is repeating a course(s) will have all credits counted as both attempted and completed credits toward progress. All grade changes are submitted to the Registrar's Office who will notify the Financial Aid Office. The student's academic progress will be re-evaluated in either case and the student will be notified if a change in his/her status occurs.

Academic progress will be evaluated at the end of each academic semester (fall, spring and summer) once grades are reported. Upon evaluation, a student will be notified of their status through their official NICC email account. A student may view their cumulative grade point average (GPA) and completion rate any time in Self Service - Financial Aid. A student will have a status assigned even if those grades were earned without utilizing veteran benefits in the past.

Satisfactory Status

Student is meeting all satisfactory academic progress standards and is eligible to receive VA educational benefits.

VA Academic Probation

This is a warning to a student who is not meeting one or more of the academic progress standards. The student remains eligible to receive VA education benefits for the upcoming semester, but must meet or exceed academic progress standards when it is evaluated at the end of that semester in order to maintain eligibility for the next semester. A student who fails to meet the requirements at the end of that semester will result in a VA Academic Suspension status.

VA Academic Suspension

A student who does not meet one or more of the academic progress standards at the completion of the semester after being on VA Academic Probation, will be on VA Academic Suspension, and are no longer eligible to receive VA education benefits. A student has the right to appeal a VA Academic Suspension.

1. The Appeal Request form is an electronic form located in Student eForms, accessible through the MyCampus student portal. Additional guidance is available online at www.nicc.edu/appeal
2. A student may appeal the suspension on the basis of injury or illness of the student, the death of a relative, or other extenuating circumstances. The appeal must explain first why the student failed to meet academic progress standards and secondly what has changed in the situation that would allow the student to make academic progress at the next evaluation. A student is recommended to provide documentation that supports the extenuating circumstances. If documentation cannot be provided, the student will need to explain why.
3. The appeal is reviewed by a committee, and their decision is final and cannot be appealed. The student will be notified of the appeal decision via their NICC email account and it is available to view on Self Service-Financial Aid. The two potential outcomes include approved for Academic Plan or a denied appeal.

Note: Appeals submitted after day five of the semester start date, are not allowed for that semester unless circumstances beyond the student's control prevented them from submitting on time. Second and subsequent appeals require new circumstances.

Academic Plan - A student was placed on Financial Aid Suspension, appealed their suspension status, had their appeal approved and has had VA educational benefits reinstated. The student is required to meet with their Enrollment Advisor to develop an Academic Plan to ensure future success in meeting the academic progress standards. The Academic Plan has specific requirements that the student will have to successfully complete by the end of the semester in order to remain eligible to continue receiving VA education benefits. *Minimum Academic Plan standards include a semester GPA of 2.0 and a semester completion status of 67%. Academic Plans for some a student may deem more stringent requirements in order to move towards satisfactory academic progress standards.* The Academic Plan is evaluated and reviewed at the end of each semester, and if semester requirements are met, the Academic Plan is renewed and will continue on into the next semester. If cumulative standards are met, the student returns back to satisfactory. If the requirements of the Academic Plan are not met, the student will be placed on VA Academic Suspension for the following semester and will not be eligible to receive benefits. A new appeal must be submitted to try to regain eligibility.

Denied Appeal – Reestablishing Education Benefits Eligibility

If an appeal is not approved, the student will not be eligible to receive VA education benefits. A student may re-establish eligibility by meeting the satisfactory academic progress standards on their own for a future evaluation. A student may also submit a new appeal, but only after demonstrating success. Academic success may include, but is not limited to, completing a minimum of at least three credits that are required for their program, with a minimum 2.0 GPA, and paying for said coursework on their own. After completion of that semester, the student can submit a new appeal request form for reconsideration by the appeal committee demonstrating new circumstances.