

## Office of Student Financial Aid Services

### December 2021 Podcast

Hello UConn Nation,

Welcome back to our 5<sup>th</sup> Money Talks Podcast. I'm Hernan Cortez, a financial aid officer, here at Storrs Campus.

At this time, you are probably finishing your fall semester. The Office of Student Financial Aid Services wants to wish you the best of luck with your semester projects and on your finals!

Today I am going to discuss two topics:

The first one is Satisfactory Academic Progress (also known as SAP)

SAP measures the student's successful completion of coursework towards a degree. There are two thresholds the student must exceed:

The first one, is related to the Grade Point Average (GPA)

For an undergraduate student with less than 24 credits, their minimum GPA should be 1.8

For Undergraduate students with 24 plus credits, their GPA should be 2.0

For Graduate students, they should have a 3.0 GPA

The second threshold is completion of attempted credits of a minimum of 67%

We will evaluate each student's progress on December 29, 2021. Students who are not meeting the thresholds, will receive an email providing them next step instructions. Please ensure you read the email carefully and follow its instructions.

Students who experienced academic difficulties due to extreme or unusual circumstances may appeal. This SAP appeal needs to be completed by January 8, 2022. Failure to appeal will result in cancellation of Spring's financial aid offer.

You can find the SAP Appeal form on our website; in the Form Portal for 2021-2022 Academic Year. Students should make sure they complete the form in its entirety AND submit the third-party documentation.

- The third-party documentation must be on letterhead and cannot be from a family member.
- Appeals submitted without the documentation are considered to be incomplete and will not be reviewed. If documentation is not received by the deadline, the appeal will be denied, and students will not be eligible for spring aid.

Late appeals will **not** be accepted.

For more information, please visit our website at [financialaid.uconn.edu/sap](https://financialaid.uconn.edu/sap).

The second discussion topic is Academic Engagement. Our office is required to comply with Federal Title IV regulations to ensure financial aid recipients demonstrate academic engagement by verifying their participation in an academically related activity.

Students who do not receive any passing grades during the fall semester, who have federal aid will be cited for academic engagement on December 29, 2021. They will receive an email from our office informing them that they have been cited and must submit an Academic Engagement appeal in order to have their aid returned.

You will have 10 days to submit a completed Academic Engagement appeal form and supporting documentation. The form can be found on our website, in the Form Portal for 2021-2022 Academic Year.

Supporting documentation can be:

- One: Confirmation from a professor – students must have the professor complete and sign (in ink) the academic engagement form (or confirm their attendance from their university email account)
- Two: Is a dated and graded assignment. An assignment must include the date of submission and the grade received. If the date and/or grade are missing or not clear, the appeal is considered incomplete.
- And the third option is proof of participation in an online discussion where the date of participation must be clear.

Please note the appeal deadline is January 8, 2022. Unfortunately, there will be no exceptions.

For more information visit our site at [financialaid.uconn.edu/academic-engagement](http://financialaid.uconn.edu/academic-engagement)

In the event that a student is cited for both SAP and Academic Engagement, you must submit each appeal separately. Just follow instructions in each email to ensure they are completing appropriately.

I know these are not the most exciting topics for me to share with you, but they are important at this time.

So, on another note, I just want to issue you a friendly reminder to complete your Financial Aid application by February 15, 2022.

- For the FAFSA you can access it via [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)
- For the Institutional Aid Application, you can find it at [financialaid.uconn.edu/undocumented-students](http://financialaid.uconn.edu/undocumented-students)

As always please contact our office with any questions you may have. Our phone number is 860-486-2819, or you can email us at [financialaid@uconn.edu](mailto:financialaid@uconn.edu) or you can even pay us a visit at the Wilbur Cross building here at the Storrs campus.

On behalf of the Office of Student Financial Aid Services we want you wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.