



Educational Services

AB 789 – Satisfactory Academic Progress

Background

On October 8, 2023, Governor Newsom signed AB 789 into law, which requires colleges participating in the Cal Grant program to adhere to a common set of SAP standards that do not go beyond what is minimally required by federal regulations and ensure students have clear pathways to regain financial aid.

One of the requirements of AB 789 is that colleges ensure students are provided the information they need to understand the institution's SAP standards and appeal options. There are four communication requirements that colleges must follow to be compliant with AB 789:

1. Institutions must provide information about the college's SAP policies and processes during new student orientation, either in person or through online orientation modules.
2. Institutions must also request that faculty include "student-friendly language" on the SAP standards and appeal processes on course syllabi. The intent is to direct students in a few sentences with instructions on accessing information regarding SAP regulations. Sample language below:

Stay on Track to Keep Your Financial Aid! To continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you maintain a 2.0 GPA, have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and will graduate on time. Failure to meet these requirements could result in the loss of your financial aid. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Financial Aid Office at cityaid@sdccd.edu / mesaaaid@sdccd.edu / miraaid@sdccd.edu.

3. Institutions must include SAP and appeal policies information on their websites and in the financial aid offer letters using "student-friendly language."
4. Colleges must notify students after each term that SAP has not been met. Currently, the district only notifies students once a year that they have not met SAP standards. AB 789 requires districts to inform students if they are not meeting SAP standards and will be at risk of losing their financial aid and guide them towards actions they can take to improve their academic progress (e.g., tutoring, educational counseling, etc.)