



The College at  
**BROCKPORT**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**POLICY TITLE: Academic Standards and Financial Assistance**

**OVERVIEW:** This policy explains required academic standards for Federal Title IV financial aid and New York State financial aid eligibility.

**OFFICE/DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE:** Academic Advisement, Financial Aid, Student Accounts, Graduate Studies

**DATE UPDATED:** September 23, 2008

---

### **Academic Standards and Financial Assistance**

Both the federal and the state governments require that you meet certain basic standards of scholarship in order to remain eligible for financial assistance. These standards have to do with how many credits you attempt each semester, how many credits you accumulate, and the grade point average you attain while doing so. It would be helpful if the federal government and the state government could agree on the same standards, but unfortunately for everyone, they don't. This means you must pay attention to two slightly different sets of rules, depending on whether you are receiving federal Title IV aid — Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Stafford Loans (Guaranteed Student Loans), College Work-Study, and Perkins Loans, — or state aid such as TAP. In most cases, if you are moving steadily along towards your degree, you are probably in no danger. You must beware of the state's "Pursuit of Program" requirement, however, which insists that you complete a certain number of credits each semester. This one can surprise a perfectly satisfactory student, who just happens to drop below the required minimum some semester, for reasons that have nothing to do with being in academic difficulty. There is one huge difference between the two standards that you should know. *State* standards require that the College evaluate the progress of state aid recipients at the completion of each *semester*, while progress according to *federal* standards is evaluated each *academic year*, at the end of the spring semester.