

New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)
2015/2016 Award Amounts Per Academic Year: \$0 to \$5,165

New York State TAP Grant- This grant provides assistance to students who are New York State residents for 12 consecutive months before the term for which assistance is sought or have attended two semesters of High School in New York. Amount range from a minimum of \$500.00 to a maximum of \$5,165 for the 2015-2016 award year. Our Tap Code is 7816. In order to qualify you must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) you may also apply by following this link: www.tap.hesc.ny.gov

Application: The FAFSA application generates the New York State Express TAP Application (ETA). Students must return the signed, completed ETA to the College or complete ETA online. Our TAP Code is 7816.

Pursuit of Program

To remain eligible for State student financial assistance, a student must remain in good academic standing. Two elements make up good academic standing: making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree and pursuing the program of study.

Program pursuit is defined in regulations as completing—getting a grade in—a percentage of the minimum full-time course load in each term an award is received. The percentage, as specified in regulations, begins at 50 percent of the minimum full-time course load in each term of the first year an award is received, to 75 percent in each term of the second year an award is received, to 100 percent in each term of the third year an award is received and thereafter.

Pursuit is an effort or completion requirement rather than an achievement requirement, so courses in which a student receives either passing or failing grades can be used to satisfy the pursuit requirement. Thus, grades of A through F and any other grade that indicates the student completed the course and all necessary assignments (e.g., P, S, U, R) are acceptable to meet the pursuit requirement. W grades or any grade which indicates the student failed to complete the course or assignments cannot be used to satisfy the pursuit requirement. Incomplete (I) grades can be used to meet the pursuit requirement providing college policy requires the grade to be resolved to a passing or failing grade no later than the end of the subsequent term.

Grades earned in remedial courses as well as credit-bearing courses can be included in meeting the pursuit requirement.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

For financial aid purposes, good academic standing consists of two elements: satisfactory academic progress and pursuit of program. Satisfactory progress is a measure of the student's *achievement*, of earning credits toward a degree or certificate with a specified grade point average. Pursuit of program is a measure of the student's *effort* to complete a program.

In accordance with section 145-2.2 of the *Regulations of the Commissioner of Education*, each institution participating in State student financial aid programs must determine whether a student is in good academic standing based on a standard of satisfactory academic progress comprising a minimum number of credits to be accrued (earned) with a minimum cumulative grade point average in each term an award payment is received. The progress standard is most clearly presented in chart format (see below).

Initially, the regulation provided that each institution establish and submit for the Commissioner's approval its proposed standard of progress. However, for the 1995-96 academic year and thereafter, new legislation mandated a minimum cumulative C average after a student has received four full-time semester award payments or the equivalent (24 payment points).

Effective for the 2010-11 academic year and thereafter, New York State Education Law requires a non-remedial student, whose first award year is in 2010--11 and thereafter, must meet new standards of satisfactory academic progress (SAP). Non-remedial students whose first year is 2007-08 through 2009-10 must meet the SAP requirements enacted in 2006. Those meeting the definition of "remedial student" are not subject to the new SAP standards, but will use the requirements established in 2006. The law enacted in 2006 mandated minimum standards of satisfactory academic progress for students receiving their first State award in academic year 2006-07 year.

TAP Coach - Good Academic Standing

Good academic standing for financial aid purposes is defined in section 145-2.2 of the *Regulations of the Commissioner of Education*. From 1981 onward, good academic standing consists of two elements, both of which must be met: satisfactory academic progress and program pursuit.

Satisfactory academic progress is an *achievement* requirement and is defined as accruing/earning a minimum number of credits toward a degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average in each term an award is received. Beginning in 1981, regulations required each institution that participated in State student financial aid programs to submit for Commissioner's approval a proposed standard of satisfactory academic progress, in almost all cases in chart format.

However, for first-time recipients in academic year 2006-2007 and thereafter, Education Law specifies the minimum credit accrual and cumulative grade point average requirements for two-year and four-year degree programs. These standards were increased for non-remedial students effective with the 2010-11 academic year and thereafter. For students who received their first award prior to academic

year 2006-2007, institutions can choose to continue to follow the standards of progress approved by the Commissioner or can adopt the statutory standards for all students.

The second element of good academic standing is program pursuit. Program pursuit is defined in regulations as completing—getting a grade in—a percentage of the minimum full-time course load in each term an award is received. The percentage, as specified in regulations, begins at 50 percent of the minimum full-time course load in each term of the first year an award is received increases, to 75 percent in each term of the second year an award is received, and to 100 percent in each term of the third year an award is received and thereafter.

Pursuit is an *effort or completion* requirement rather than an achievement requirement, so courses in which a student receives either passing or failing grades can be used to satisfy the pursuit requirement. Thus, grades of A through F and any other grade that indicates the student completed the course and all necessary assignments (P, S, U, R) are acceptable to meet the pursuit requirement. W grades or any grade which indicates the student failed to complete the course or assignments cannot be used to satisfy the pursuit requirement. Incomplete (I) grades can be used to meet the pursuit requirement providing college policy requires the grade to be resolved to a passing or failing grade no later than the end of the subsequent term.

While only credit-bearing courses can be used to meet satisfactory academic progress requirements (credit earned toward a degree), students can meet the pursuit requirement by completing remedial and/or credit-bearing courses.

Programs: Associate Program						
Calendar: Semester 2010-11 and thereafter (non-remedial students)						
Before Being Certified for This Payment	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
A Student Must Have Accrued at Least This Many Credits	0	6	15	27	39	51
With at Least This Grade Point Average	0	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.0

Program: Associate Program

Calendar: Semester Calendar 2006-07, 2007-08 through 2009-10 and 2010-11 and thereafter remedial students (if a student's first award was in 2010-11 and thereafter, and he/she does not meet the definition of a remedial student, see charts for non-remedial students)

Before Being Certified for This Payment	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
A Student Must Have Accrued at Least This Many Credits	0	3	9	18	30	45
With At Least This Grade Point	0	.5	.75	1.3	2.0	2.0