



Financial Aid 2024-2025
Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Request
Spring 2025
Deadline: January 3, 2025

Is this your first appeal? (Currently on Financial Aid Suspension) _____

Is this your second appeal? (Appeal was approved for a previous term and the requirements of this appeal were not met) _____

Name: _____ Student ID #: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Program of Study: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

(Please submit a copy of your program evaluation highlighting the courses you need to take to complete your degree. You can access your Program Evaluation through web advisor by going to webadvisor.piedmontcc.edu or your academic advisor.

It has been determined that you are not making satisfactory academic progress toward graduation. Grade point average, the percentage of credit hours completed and completing your primary program within a specified time define satisfactory academic progress. Federal and state regulations require students to comply with standards of academic progress as defined by the Financial Aid Office. Students that fail to meet the minimum standards lose their eligibility to receive federal and state aid. Federal regulations also allow the Financial Aid Appeals Committee to extend eligibility to students that fail to meet minimum standards if they can document that there were mitigating circumstances beyond their control that caused them to perform below standards. Documentation should be submitted with your appeal to support your statement. Working, taking care of children, did not study, was not prepared for college, etc. are not examples of mitigating circumstances. **Examples include: medical conditions that resulted in hospitalization for more than 10 days, loss of an immediate family member, loss of home due to fire, storm or natural disaster, illness of student or immediate family member, severe emotional difficulties, death in the family, loss of employment, etc.** The mitigating circumstances should occur during the term you received failing grades and/or withdrew from classes.

Note:

Work is not considered a hardship since financial aid is viewed as a supplement to student's income to help reduce the number of hours the average student would have to work in a given week. Childcare is not considered a hardship since this would have been an issue if you worked and before you enrolled in classes.

It is the responsibility of the student to successfully complete all classes for which they have Enrolled. Please remember that dropping a class, failing a class, or withdrawing from a class is a Personal decision made by the student.

*Students on financial aid suspension should not depend on financial aid to pay for costs of registration, but should be prepared to pay from their own resources pending the outcome of their financial aid appeal. Appeals submitted without proper documentation may be **DENIED**. Incomplete forms will **not** be reviewed.*

SECTION A

Suggestions on Writing Your Appeal

Submit your appeal as soon as possible. Each semester will have a deadline to submit appeals. A reason for appealing would be an extenuating circumstance over which you had no control and which you can document. The appeal should explain in detail the reason(s) for not meeting the standards of progress. Your statement for your appeal should consist of two parts:

1. In Part I, explain how the circumstances prevented you from meeting academic progress and indicate how the problem has been resolved.
2. In Part II, clearly explain how you will be able to meet progress standards in the future.

Provide relevant dates and supporting documents from appropriate third parties, such as an academic advisor, instructor, doctor, counselor, clergy, etc.

Appeal Categories

Mark the circle that represents the reason for your appeal. Read and FOLLOW the instructions. Attach copies of supporting documentation, statements, or letters to support your Appeal. Include a detailed, written explanation stating the circumstances of your appeal. You must complete this section. This is part of your appeal request. Please check the appropriate circle and provide the requested information in your statement.

- **Death of an immediate family member** (immediate family member is a grandparent, parent, child, spouse, brother, or sister). Other relatives such as uncles, aunts and cousins are not immediate family members.
 - Part I. (CAUSE):** Explain how the person's death affected your academic performance. Was this an unexpected death? Did their death occur during the semester you fell behind? What role did you play in their care? Were you the primary caregiver for this person and what was the reason you chose to be the caregiver? Provide a photocopy of the death certificate, obituary notice, or letter from the funeral home. Include in your statement the deceased's name and relationship to you.
 - Part II. (YOUR SOLUTION):** Please explain what you have done to resolve the problem that prevented you from successfully completing your required hours. Did you seek counseling to deal with the death? Did you make an effort to make up the deficiencies after this death? What steps have you taken to ensure you will complete the upcoming semester.
- **Illness or injury.** You, your spouse, your dependent children, were injured or ill for an extended period. Explain at what time the injury or illness occurred in relationship to your enrollment.
 - Part I. (CAUSE):** Who was ill or injured? How long was this person ill or injured? What were the restrictions, if any? Why was this person (if this person was not you) unable to care for his/herself while you attended classes? Provide medical records, bills, or doctor's statement. Provide names of the people and their relationship to you who were ill or injured.
 - Part II. (YOUR SOLUTION):** What steps have you taken in case another illness or injury occurs to ensure you will be able to attend your classes and meet your academic obligations for the semester? Explain your plans in detail.
- **Change in academic program.** You have changed academic programs. As a result, you have exceeded the maximum allowable semesters as per Piedmont Community College's Financial Aid's Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. You must recognize that changing

majors does not allow you extra time to graduate. The allowable number of terms remains the same regardless of the additional time needed to complete the new degree requirements.

Part I. (CAUSE): Explain your reason for changing majors this late in your career. In your explanation, include how many hours from your previous major will not transfer into your new degree. How many hours do you still need to complete this new major? Submit a program evaluation for your previous and your new program of study. This can be done with your academic advisor or on Web Advisor.

Part II. (YOUR SOLUTION): Describe your plan of action. How many hours will you be enrolling in this semester? List the courses you will be taking this current semester. Include in your statement your anticipated graduation date.

- **Extenuating circumstances.** You experienced an unusual situation over which you had no control. This unusual situation is not one of the categories above. Automobile accident, automobile breakdown, marital conflicts are examples of extenuating circumstances.

Part I. (CAUSE): Explain the unusual situation and how it affected your studies. Include in your statement what actions you took to successfully complete the classes (i.e., Did you seek tutoring? Why did you drop or fail the class?) When did you decide that you would drop the class or realize that you would fail the class?

Part II (YOUR SOLUTION): Describe your plan of action. What steps have you taken to solve your problems? Do you now have reliable transportation? Have you sought marital counseling or resolved problems? Attach your supporting documents such as a letter from a professor, marriage counselor, divorce attorney, accident report, or copies of your repair receipts for your vehicle.

SECTION B

Please indicate the semester you are appealing to have your financial aid reinstated:

- ☐ Fall 2024 ☐ Summer 2025
- ☐ Spring 2025

Have you previously submitted an appeal? If so, please give a brief statement in regards to your current appeal.

Please address all semesters in which you experienced academic problems.

Describe the actions you have taken to meet your responsibilities as a student during the time you experienced your mitigating circumstances.

Describe what changes will now enable you to meet the academic progress requirements in your next term of enrollment.

Personal Statement:

You may attach additional sheets, if necessary.

SECTION C

I understand that decisions on appeals are processed on a case-by-case basis. If approved, I will be expected to make academic progress in the semester for which my appeal has been approved. I am aware that my appeal will not be reviewed until the current semester's grades have been evaluated. Furthermore, I have read Piedmont Community College's Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

I certify that the information I have provided is true and accurate. According to the U.S. Department of Education, if you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined up to \$20,000, sent to prison, or both.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

FOR FINANCIAL AID OFFICE USE ONLY

Name of Program: _____ Total Attempted Hours: _____ Total Earned Hours: _____
Completion Rate: _____ GPA: _____ # of Previous Appeals Approved: _____

- ☐ Appeal Denied due to insufficient documentation. _____
- ☐ Appeal Denied due to completion rate. _____
- ☐ Appeal Denied due to grade point average. _____
- ☐ Appeal Denied due to grade point average and completion rate. _____
- ☐ Appeal Denied. Student must complete at least _____ credit hours without withdrawing from any courses, maintain a 2.0 GPA and resubmit appeal.
- ☐ Appeal Approved. Student must complete all credit hours without withdrawing from any courses and attain a 2.5 GPA.

Signature, Chair Appeals Committee: _____ Date: _____

Signature, Dean, Enrollment Services _____ Date: _____

FINANCIAL AID APPEALS COMMITTEE:

- ☐ APPROVED
- ☐ DENIED

Comments: _____

