

## FEDERAL STUDENT AID

All students attending SAU Tech are encouraged to apply for federal student aid. At SAU Tech, federal student aid includes Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work Study, Subsidized Federal Direct Loans, Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans, and Federal PLUS Loans. To be considered for these programs, a student must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit it to the Federal Processing Center on an annual basis. You can apply over the Internet at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). To be eligible for Federal student aid, you must:

1. Have a high school diploma or a GED Certificate.
2. Be a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen.
3. Comply with Selective Service registration, if required.
4. Have a valid Social Security number.
5. Be accepted as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program.
6. Meet satisfactory academic progress standards set by the school you will attend.
7. Certify that you will use federal student aid only for educational purposes.
8. Certify that you are not in default on a federal student loan and that you do not owe money on a federal student grant.
9. Demonstrate financial need (except for Unsubsidized and PLUS Loans).

The information you report on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is used to calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The formula used to calculate your EFC is established by law and is used to measure your family's financial strength based on their income and assets. The EFC is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Most federal student aid is awarded based on financial need.

The Financial Aid Administrator calculates your cost of attendance and subtracts the amount you and your family are expected to contribute toward that cost. The remaining difference is your financial need.

You will not receive any financial aid until your financial aid file is complete and you have been fully admitted into an eligible degree program. To be complete, the file must contain the following information:

1. Valid Institutional Student Information Record (electronic results of FAFSA)
2. Verification or requested documents as required
3. All prior academic transcripts, if applicable.
  - Fall Priority Deadline .....July 1st
  - Spring Priority Deadline .....November 15th
  - Summer Priority Deadline .....April 15<sup>th</sup>

You must pay to attend SAU Tech unless your aid is fully processed. After your late application is processed, you will be awarded the amount of aid for which you are eligible. Financial aid recipients must inform the Financial Aid Office when they:

1. Withdraw from school,
2. Change enrollment status,
3. Receive any additional financial aid from any source,
4. Change their name, or
5. Change their mailing address.

## FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS

### Federal Pell Grant

Federal Pell Grants are awarded to help undergraduate students pay for education after high school. These grants, unlike loans, do not have to be repaid. For many students, the Federal Pell Grant will provide a foundation of financial aid to which aid from other federal and non-federal sources may be added. The maximum award amount is set each year by the United States Congress. The amount a student receives will depend on the individual's EFC, the projected cost of attendance, the student's enrollment status, and whether the student attends for the full academic year.

## **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)**

FSEOG is a campus-based federal grant program available to undergraduate students with exceptional financial need. Eligible students with the highest need (those with the lowest EFCs) who will also receive Federal Pell Grants will be the first selection group for FSEOG funds. If remaining FSEOG funds are available, eligible students with the lowest EFCs who will not receive Federal Pell Grants will be the second selection group. FSEOG awards do not have to be repaid.

## **Federal Work Study**

The Federal Work Study (FWS) Program provides jobs for students who have demonstrated financial need. Federal Work Study gives students the opportunity to earn money to help with educational expenses. The amount that students may earn is determined by need and availability of funds. Work study employees must be able to provide certain employment eligibility verification. Jobs are limited by availability of funds. Students will be selected by the various departments based on an interview process.

## **Subsidized Federal Direct Loan**

A Subsidized Federal Direct Loan is a low-interest loan for educational purposes only made to students who are enrolled and maintain at least half-time status (six (6) hours or more). These loans are made by the federal government and **must be repaid with any accrued interest**. To qualify, students must have financial need. The Federal government pays the interest on the loan while the student is in school. Repayment begins six (6) months after the student drops below half-time status, leaves school, or graduates. Students are only eligible for both a subsidized loans and the subsidy for which the government pays up 150% of the degree in which they are registered.

## **Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan**

An Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan is a non-need based loan that the student is responsible for the interest charged during in-school and deferment periods. Students must be enrolled and maintain at least half-time status (six (6) hours or more). The student may allow the interest to accumulate until he/she is out of school; however, this will increase the amount of the principal payback. Repayment begins six (6) months after the student drops below half-time status, leaves school, or graduates.

## **Federal PLUS Loans**

The Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) is a non-need based loan made to parents or legal guardians of dependent undergraduate students attending school at least half-time. PLUS loans will be limited to the actual cost of attendance minus other financial aid. Repayment begins 60 days after the check is written.

## **STATE AID PROGRAMS**

Eligibility requirements are subject to change by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Awards are subject to availability of funds.

## **Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship**

Applications are available online at <http://adhe.edu>. The YOUniversal application must be submitted to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education by June 1st of the student's high school graduation year. In order to be considered for eligibility, ADHE also requires students to apply for the FAFSA by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Award amounts and enrollment requirements vary with high school graduation date, college attending, and current college completion rate. If you are awarded Academic Challenge, your award will be stated in the award letter issued by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

## **Arkansas High Tech Scholarship**

This scholarship is available to students who have at least 19 on the ACT, a 2.50 GPA, and are enrolled in an approved high technology program at SAU Tech or other Arkansas public or private post-secondary institutions. This scholarship is valued at \$500. Applications and criteria are available online at <http://dwe.arkansas.gov/hightechscholarship.htm>.

## **Arkansas National Guard Tuition Incentive Program (GTIP)**

Qualifying soldiers must complete the application (AG AR Form 621-@, 9 June 2005) for each semester and submit to the Education Center at Camp Robinson between July 1st and August 15th for fall term and between November 1st and December 15th for spring term. Award amounts are based on enrollment status and availability of funds.

## **Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant**

You must complete the FAFSA to apply for the Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant. The grant, subject to availability of funds, is limited to Arkansas residents who are independent students age 24 or older and are making satisfactory progress according to SAU Tech's policy. Awards are made based on need and the cost of tuition and fees for hours enrolled. Full-time enrollment is not required.

## **Arkansas Department of Higher Education**

For information and applications on additional programs awarded and administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, write to Arkansas Department of Higher Education, 114 East Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, call 1.800.54.STUDY, or visit their website at [www.adhe.edu](http://www.adhe.edu). These programs include but are not limited to the Governor's Scholars & Distinguished Scholars, Emergency Secondary Education Loan, Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship, Military Dependents' Scholarship, National Guard Scholarship, and the Second Effort Scholarship.

## **OTHER AID PROGRAMS**

### **AmeriCorps Education Award**

After successfully completing a term of community service, AmeriCorps members who are enrolled in the National Service Trust are eligible to receive an AmeriCorps Education Award. You can use your AmeriCorps Education Award to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training, or to repay qualified student loans. For more information, call 1.800.833.3722 or visit their website at [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org).

### **Employer Tuition Assistance**

Many employers sponsor tuition assistance programs. Some companies will pay your tuition bill directly, others will ask you to make the initial payment, reimbursing you after you have received your grades. Contact your company's Human Resources Department for specific information.

### **Private Scholarships**

Civic groups, professional organizations, foundations, religious organizations, sororities, fraternities, and clubs may offer financial assistance. Research these options on the local, state, and national level. Scholarship searches can be done online; however, you should beware of possible scams, especially if a fee is charged. Most information is available free of charge.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation**

Students who have a substantial handicap to employment as a result of a permanent disability may be eligible for tuition, books, and/or other educational assistance through this program. Contact the nearest Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Office for further information. In El Dorado, call 1.870.862.5451.

### **Workforce Investment Act**

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is a program designed to provide core, intensive, and training services to youth, adults, and dislocated workers. Training services will be provided to adults and dislocated workers through the voucher system. Information is available from Southwest Arkansas Planning & Development District Inc. Counties served are Calhoun, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Sevier, and Union. For more information, call 1.870.836.5024 in Camden.

## VETERANS BENEFITS

### GI Bill

Veterans Benefits are awarded to veterans and their dependents that qualify under Chapters 30, 32, 33, 1607, and 35 of Title 38 USC and Chapter 1606 of Title 10. For information and application forms, contact the Financial Aid Office, call the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1.888.442.4551, or visit their website at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). You must submit your class schedule each semester to the Certifying Official in the Financial Aid Office. You must notify the Certifying Official any time changes are made to your schedule or your selected major. Payments that are made directly from the Veteran's Affairs Office to the qualifying student are not posted to your student account at SAU Tech.

### Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation

Any veteran with a compensable disability rating of 10% or more is invited to file an application for Vocational Rehabilitation by completing VA Form 28-1900 and submitting it to the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Little Rock. Once the application is filed, an appointment will be scheduled for you to discuss your educational plans, test your aptitude, interests and abilities as well as review the nature of your disability and how it affects your ability to gain employment. A decision of your entitlement to the benefit will be rendered after the counseling appointment. If the veteran is eligible, the program makes direct payment to the school for tuition, fees, and books.

### Federal Tuition Assistance

Qualifying soldiers must apply online at [www.virtualarmory.com](http://www.virtualarmory.com) by July 31st for fall term and by December 31st for spring term. Print the completed application form and submit to the Financial Aid Office. The military typically pays 75% of tuition and fees through this program. **SAU Tech waives the other 25% upon submission of the completed application form.**

## **INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Requirements are subject to change by SAU Tech. Applications may be obtained from the SAU Tech Financial Aid Office or [www.sautech.edu](http://www.sautech.edu).

### **Academic Challenge Supplemental Scholarship**

The Academic Challenge Supplemental Scholarship valued at \$1000 towards tuition and fees will be awarded to students who receive the Academic Challenge Scholarship from ADHE. As long as a student is eligible for and receiving the Academic Challenge Scholarship from ADHE they will be eligible for the supplement. Funds are very limited so apply early as awards will be based on eligibility and timeliness of application of the FAFSA.

### **Academic Scholarship**

The initial requirement for this scholarship is a minimum ACT score of 24. Student must enroll the fall semester immediately following high school graduation. The renewal requirements are that a student must enroll in 15 credit hours each semester and complete a minimum of 24 hours per academic year and maintain a cumulative 3.00 GPA. The scholarship is valued at full tuition and processing fees up to 15 hours plus \$250 for books per semester.

### **Career Academy Award**

This scholarship is awarded to Arkansas residents who are currently enrolled in high school and have a composite ACT score of 19 or higher, or an ASSET total score (math + reading + writing) of 131 or higher with no area score lower than required to be considered "non-remedial". Recipients must earn at least a "C" or a "W" to be eligible for subsequent scholarships. This scholarship cannot be used for basic skills classes. The value of the scholarship is the cost of tuition for the classes in which the recipient is enrolled with a limit of 11 hours per semester; it does not cover fees, books, supplies, or other costs and has no refundable cash value. Note: For the purpose of this scholarship, students are exempt from paying fees.

### **Concurrent Program Award**

To be eligible for the Concurrent Program award the student must receive a Certificate of Proficiency through the SAU Tech Concurrent Enrollment Program or through the SAU Tech Career Academy. The student must enroll in the fall semester immediately following high school. The award is valued at \$1500 per semester. In order to renew the award the recipient must complete 24 hours per academic year and maintain a 2.50 cumulative GPA.

### **Fire Service Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to applicants who are currently employed in fire service or active duty volunteers in fire service in Arkansas and have successfully completed the Arkansas Fire Training Academy (AFTA) Firefighter II Certification Program. The scholarship is limited to college credit classes that apply toward a degree in fire service. This scholarship is renewable until the degree is completed or until the student has attempted 90 credit hours, whichever is earlier. The recipient must also maintain a 2.00 cumulative GPA each semester or term. Complete withdrawals for two (2) consecutive semesters of enrollment will result in the loss of the scholarship. To regain eligibility after such withdrawals, at least one (1) semester must be successfully completed at the student's expense. The value of this scholarship is the cost of tuition for classes taken at SAU Tech; it does not cover processing fees, Internet fees, noncredit course fees, books, supplies, or other costs and has no refundable cash value. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis provided funds are available. Applicant must be registered for classes for scholarship to be awarded. Proof of certification and department affiliation are required. A renewal application must be submitted each semester.

### **Law Enforcement Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to applicants who are currently employed in law enforcement within the state and have successfully completed the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA) Certification Program. The scholarship is limited to college credit classes that apply toward the Professional Studies degree with emphasis in law enforcement. This scholarship is renewable until the degree is completed or until the student has attempted 90 credit hours, whichever is earlier, provided the recipient maintains a 2.00 cumulative GPA each semester or term. Complete withdrawals for two (2) consecutive semesters of enrollment will result in the loss of the scholarship. To regain eligibility after such withdrawals, at least one (1) semester must be successfully completed at the student's expense. The value of this scholarship is the cost of tuition for classes taken at SAU Tech; it does not cover processing fees, Internet fees, noncredit course fees, books, supplies, or other costs and has no refundable cash value. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis provided funds are available. Applicant must be registered for classes for scholarship to be awarded. Proof of certification and agency affiliation are required. A renewal application must be submitted each semester.

### **Merit Scholarship**

The initial requirement for this scholarship is a minimum ACT score of 19 or equivalent. The student must be a first-time entering freshman (regardless of age). For renewal the student must enroll in 15 credit hours each semester and complete a minimum of 24 credit hours per academic year and maintain a cumulative 2.50 GPA. The scholarship is valued at \$1500 each semester. The value of this scholarship covers tuition only; it does not cover fees, books, housing, or other costs and has no refundable cash value. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis provided funds are available.

### **Miss Arkansas Scholarship**

This scholarship is provided to the winner of the Miss Arkansas Pageant and to the first runner-up. The Miss Arkansas Scholarship is renewable for three (3) additional semesters, provided the recipient enrolls in at least 15 credit hours each semester, and completes a minimum of 30 hours per academic year, and maintains a 2.50 cumulative GPA. (Scholarship cannot be used for summer terms.) The value of this scholarship is the cost of full-time tuition; it does not cover fees, books, housing, or other costs and has no refundable cash value.

### **Miss SAU Tech Scholarship**

This scholarship is provided to the winner of the Miss Greater Camden Pageant but it may be awarded to the runner-up if the winner chooses to decline. The scholarship must be used within one (1) year of the pageant or one (1) year of the scholarship award, whichever is later. The Miss SAU Tech Scholarship is renewable for three (3) additional semesters provided the recipient enrolls in at least 15 credit hours each semester, and completes a minimum of 30 hours per academic year, and maintains a 2.50 cumulative GPA. (Scholarship cannot be used for summer terms.) The value of this scholarship is \$1500 per semester towards tuition; it does not cover fees, books, housing, or other costs and has no refundable cash value.

### **Progressive Scholarship**

The initial requirement for this scholarship is: a minimum ACT score of 19 or equivalent or a minimum cumulative college GPA of 2.50; is at least 21 years of age at the beginning of the fall semester; has not yet received a Bachelor or Associate degree; has not attended college for at least two (2) years. The Progressive Scholarship is renewable for three (3) additional semesters provided the recipient enrolls in 12 hours each semester and completes a minimum of 18 hours per academic year and maintains a 2.50 cumulative GPA. (Scholarship cannot be used for summer terms.) The value of this scholarship is \$1,000 per semester; it does not cover fees, books, housing, or other costs and has no refundable cash value. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis provided funds are available.

### **Nursing Scholarship**

To be eligible for the Nursing scholarship the student must be accepted into the nursing program and be recommended by the Nursing Department. For continued eligibility the recipient must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 and remain in the nursing program. The scholarship is valued at full tuition for the fall, spring, and summer semester(s).

### **SAU Tech GED Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to two (2) GED graduates per year who score the highest on the GED Exam taken at the SAU Tech Adult Education Central Office at the Ouachita County site in Camden. The scholarship must be used within one (1) year of the scholarship award. The SAU Tech GED Scholarship is renewable for three (3) additional semesters, provided the recipient enrolls in at least two (2) classes each semester and maintains a 2.50 cumulative GPA each semester. (Scholarship cannot be used for summer terms.) The value of this scholarship is the cost of tuition for the classes in which the recipient is enrolled up to 15 credit hours tuition; it does not cover fees, books, housing, or other costs and has no refundable cash value.

### **SAU Tech National Merit Finalist/Semi-Finalist Scholarship**

This scholarship is provided to any student who is designated as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist or Semi-Finalist and is renewable for three (3) additional semesters, provided the recipient enrolls in at least 15 credit hours each semester, and completes a minimum of 30 hours per academic year, and maintains a 2.50 cumulative GPA. (Scholarship cannot be used for summer terms.) The value of this scholarship is \$1500 per semester towards tuition; it does not cover fees, books, housing, or other costs and has no refundable cash value.

### **Skills USA Scholarship**

Students who have earned the GOLD MEDAL in state competition and present a certificate from Skills USA will be awarded a tuition only scholarship for up to 15 hours. The student must be fully admitted in a degree/certificate program and be enrolled in 15 hours each semester. The scholarship is renewable for up to three (3) additional semesters provided the student maintains a 3.00 GPA and completes 24 credit hours per academic year.

### **Student Life Ambassador Scholarship**

To be eligible for the Student Life Ambassador scholarship the student must turn in two (2) written recommendations, one (1) from their high school counselor and one (1) from a high school teacher if they are a high school senior. If the applicant is not a high school senior, he/she can turn in recommendations from a college professor and/or employer. The applicant must also write a one page essay on why they want to be a Student Ambassador at SAU Tech and achieve a minimum ACT of 19 or equivalent. In order to renew the scholarship, the student must maintain at least a 2.50 GPA, complete a minimum of 24 credit hours per academic year, and be recommended by their work supervisor. The scholarship is valued \$1500 per semester. Recipients must work 15 hours a week and will be paid from either FWS or IWS in addition to their scholarship. Student Life Ambassadors will work for the College giving tours, making telephone calls, doing mail outs, visiting local high schools, working college nights, and other duties as assigned.

### **Valedictorian/Salutatorian Scholarship**

The initial requirement for this scholarship is that the student must graduate from high school as either the Valedictorian or Salutatorian, achieve a minimum ACT score of 21, and enroll the fall semester immediately following high school graduation. For schools that do not designate a Valedictorian or Salutatorian SAU Tech can accept a ranking of one (1) or two (2) from the high school counselor. For renewal the student must complete a minimum of 24 credit hours per academic year and maintain a 3.00 cumulative GPA. The scholarship is valued at full tuition and processing fees up to 15 credit hours plus \$250 for books per semester.



## **General Requirements for Institutional Scholarships**

1. All students must be fully admitted and degree seeking.
2. Must be a US citizen.
3. Students must enroll in a minimum of 15 hours each semester (unless otherwise stipulated).
4. Scholarships cannot be used for summer sessions (except Nursing).
5. Scholarships are good for a total of up to four (4) consecutive semesters provided the student meets renewal requirements. If the student is not enrolled for a semester the scholarship is lost. Depending on the scholarship requirements the student may be able to reapply.
6. Must apply for scholarships by the deadline set on scholarship application.
7. Scholarships are awarded to the extent funds are available.
8. These scholarships are merit based, but the Financial Aid Office will encourage and strongly recommend students fill out a FAFSA.

## **FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

These scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors by Southern Arkansas University Tech Foundation Board. Application deadline is March 1st. The Southern Arkansas University Tech Foundation Board will review financial status annually and then specify the scholarships to be awarded for the next academic year and determine the dollar amount of each scholarship. Applications may be obtained from the SAU Tech Financial Aid Office or [www.sautech.edu](http://www.sautech.edu). Foundation scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors only except for the Betty J. Lewis Minority Scholarship and Ouachita Electric Cooperative Scholarship.

### **Alfred Smith Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of a Ouachita County high school. Subject to availability of funds, this scholarship may be renewed for one (1) semester provided a 3.00 GPA is maintained.

### **Betty J. Lewis Minority Scholarship**

This academic scholarship is awarded to a student with a high school diploma or GED. The candidate must have at least one biological parent whom is African American, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, Native American or Asian. Subject to the availability of funds, this scholarship may be renewed provided a 2.00 GPA is maintained.

### **BPW Scholarship**

Any woman is eligible to apply for this scholarship. She must qualify scholastically to enter SAU Tech and must be seeking enrollment in, or be enrolled in a degree program at SAU Tech. Applications will be presented to the Camden BPW Scholarship Committee for selection. The award will be for no less than \$300 and will be determined by the BPW Scholarship Committee.

### **Camden Kiwanis Club Scholarship**

This award, in the amount donated by the Kiwanis organization, is available to a local senior selected by Kiwanis representatives. Subject to availability of funds, this scholarship may be renewed for one (1) semester provided a 3.00 GPA is maintained.

### **George R. Brown Scholarship**

This award is for students attending SAU Tech and is not limited to recently graduating seniors. Guidelines for selection of recipients of this scholarship are prioritized as follows:

1. A dependent of a Highland Industrial Park or East Camden and Highland Railroad employee.
2. A dependent of a BancorpSouth employee.
3. A graduate of Hampton High School.
4. A graduate of Camden Fairview or Harmony Grove High School.
5. A student selected by the Scholarship Committee of SAU Tech.

This scholarship is renewable for three (3) additional semesters, provided a 3.00 GPA (GPA) is maintained.

### **Judge Plunkett Book Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating high school senior with outstanding academic achievement. Subject to availability of funds, this scholarship may be renewed for one (1) semester, provided a 3.00 GPA is maintained.

### **Lockheed Martin Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of Camden Fairview, Harmony Grove, Stephens, Bearden, Sparkman, Hampton, Smackover, or Fordyce high schools. Subject to availability of funds, this scholarship may be renewed for one (1) semester provided a 3.00 GPA is maintained.

#### **Ouachita Electric Cooperative Scholarship**

Recipients of this scholarship or their immediate families shall be members of Ouachita Electric Cooperative. Subject to availability of funds, this scholarship may be renewed for one (1) semester provided a 3.00 GPA is maintained.

#### **Raytheon Missile Systems Scholarship**

This academic scholarship is awarded to a financially deserving high school graduating senior or an undergraduate. Preference will be given to applicants whose chosen field of study is mathematics, engineering, or science. Subject to availability of funds, this scholarship may be renewed for one (1) semester provided a 3.00 GPA is maintained.

#### **Samuel D. McGill Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of Camden Fairview, Harmony Grove, Stephens, Bearden, Sparkman, Hampton, Smackover, or Fordyce high schools. Subject to availability of funds, this scholarship may be renewed for one (1) semester provided a 3.00 GPA is maintained.

#### **SAU Tech Foundation Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of Camden Fairview, Harmony Grove, Stephens, Bearden, Sparkman, Hampton, Smackover, or Fordyce high schools. Subject to availability of funds, this scholarship may be renewed for one (1) semester provided a 3.00 GPA is maintained.

#### **Thomas Lee & Ida Lee Walters Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of Harmony Grove High School who intends to pursue a major in an occupational program at SAU Tech. The Harmony Grove High School Scholarship Committee selects the recipient. Subject to availability of funds, this scholarship may be renewed for one (1) semester provided a 3.00 GPA is maintained.

### **Wayne Taylor Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of Camden Fairview, Harmony Grove, Stephens, Bearden, Sparkman, Hampton, Smackover, or Fordyce high schools. Subject to availability of funds, this scholarship may be renewed for one (1) semester provided a 3.00 GPA is maintained.

### **Zachary Brian Hooper Award for Volunteerism**

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from an Ouachita County high school who attends SAU Tech during the scholarship year. Subject to availability of funds, the scholarship may be renewed provided a 3.0 GPA is maintained. Candidate must provide documentation of all civic, charitable, community, and volunteer involvement.

# Southern Arkansas University Tech

## Policy for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

### For Students Receiving Federal Student Aid

Students that receive Title IV assistance (financial aid) are required to make satisfactory academic progress. Federal guidelines stipulate that the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy apply to all enrollment periods at SAU Tech regardless of whether or not aid was received. SAP is defined as passing a required percentage of hours and maintaining a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 point scale.

Students must be degree seeking in an eligible program of study in order to receive federal financial aid. Students may receive financial aid while enrolled for a full or part-time course of study, 12 semester hours is considered full-time. Students receiving financial aid are strongly advised to consult with the financial aid staff before making any adjustments to their program of study or course load.

Students may receive financial aid for no longer than **150%** of the published length of the educational program. For example, a student may use up to 90 credit hours to complete the requirements for a 60 hour degree. Once a student gets within 15 hours of the 150% limit, if they want to continue to receive financial aid, they must present the financial aid office with a degree plan that demonstrates they can finish within 150% of the length of their program. If they cannot do this then they will immediately be ineligible for financial aid. Upon completing their program, students may be able to pursue another degree or certificate under the same guidelines with the approval of the financial aid office. However, completion percentage and GPA will always be cumulative.

Students must complete the following minimum percentage of courses to maintain SAP:

Hours Attempted	Completion Percentage Required of Hours Attempted
Up to 15 hours	55%
16 – 30 hours	60%
31 or more hours	67%

A student's official enrollment status will be determined on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of class (5<sup>th</sup> day of class in summer terms), and aid will be awarded accordingly. Students must attend at least one day of a class in order for that class to count towards their enrollment status for financial aid purposes. A student that withdraws after the 11<sup>th</sup> day of class will be held responsible for the minimum percentage of hours for his/her official enrollment status.

SAP will be reviewed when awards are made and at the end of each term for all students receiving Title IV aid. At such time that a student's SAP is checked and they are not making SAP the student will be placed on Warning (no appeal necessary) and will be notified in writing. Students who are placed on Warning may still be eligible for Title IV aid for one payment period. Students who are on Warning will have one payment period to meet SAP standards. If they do not meet SAP standards at the end of this payment period they will not be eligible for financial aid.

Any student who becomes ineligible for financial aid can make an appeal. If an appeal is granted they will be placed on Financial Aid Probation. Students who are placed on probation can receive financial aid for one payment period. At the end of that payment period the student must be making SAP or successfully following the Academic Plan laid out by the Appeals Committee. If not, the student is no longer eligible for Title IV aid.

#### APPEAL PROCESS

Appeals will not be considered until the FAFSA for the academic year and ALL prior academic transcripts are on file in the Financial Aid Office. The committee reviews each appeal on an individual basis, the process is outlined below.

1. Once the student is informed that they are no longer making SAP they have 30 days to submit an appeal in writing to the Financial Aid Office. Appeals are only for extenuating circumstances such as the serious illness of the student, death of a close family member or other special circumstances. Supporting documentation must be submitted with the appeal letter.
2. The letter must include what has changed in the student's situation that will allow him/her to make SAP at the end of the next payment period. The letter, along with all supporting documentation, should be submitted to the Financial Aid Office who will then forward to the Appeals Committee.

3. In order for an appeal to be approved the Appeals Committee must:
  - a. Be able to determine that the student will be able to meet SAP standards by the end of the next payment period; or
  - b. The student must be placed on an Academic Plan that will ensure the student is able to meet SAP by a specific point in time.
4. If the student's appeal is approved they will be placed on Probation and be eligible for Financial aid for one payment period. At the end of the payment period the student must either be meeting the guidelines of the SAP policy or successfully following the Academic Plan established by the Appeals Committee.
5. The Appeals Committee meets the first business Tuesday of each month as necessary to review appeal cases. (Appeal letters must be submitted a week prior to the monthly committee meeting in order to be reviewed that month).
6. Once the decision is returned to the Financial Aid Office the student will be notified in writing. All decisions of the Appeals Committee are final; there is no further appeal.

### **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

1. **Developmental/Basic Studies Courses** – Enrollment in these courses will be included in the total hour requirement for calculating financial aid awards, the calculating of cumulative semester hours of credit required, and in the calculation of cumulative semester hours attempted. Developmental/Basic studies courses do not earn a GPA and will not count toward the students overall GPA for academic progress purposes. Developmental/Basic Studies courses will be considered “completed” if the student earns a grade of “C” or better. Intermediate Algebra will be counted as a regular course, and not a developmental/basic studies course.
2. **Repeating Courses** – The last grade recorded in repeated courses is the grade of record at SAU Tech and will be used in computing the student's GPA. Both courses will count towards the number of hours attempted and they will count as completed as long as the course was completed. The SAP policy does not limit the number of times a course can be repeated. However, there are limits on receiving financial aid for repeated courses, for additional information check with the Financial Aid office.
3. **“I” and “W”** – Courses with a grade of “I” or “W” will count towards the students hours attempted, but will not count towards the hours successfully completed.
4. **Portfolio Credits** – Portfolio credits will count towards a students' SAP to the extent they count as hours earned and attempted. If they do not count as earned and attempted then they will not count towards the SAP calculation.
5. **Transfer Students** – Students must report to the Financial Aid Office and Admission's office, all colleges, universities, and other schools in which they have enrolled prior to SAU Tech. Transfer students are subject to the same policy regarding length of time and GPA as native SAU Tech students for those hours accepted at SAU Tech. Hours transferred in after a student has completed a previous degree at SAU Tech will count towards the new degree being sought, regarding the 150% rule.
6. **Audits** – Audited courses do not count toward hours attempted or hours earned. Students may not receive aid for auditing a course.
7. **Maximum Time Frame** – Associate Degree 90 hours; Technical Certificates 45 hours. There are three exceptions: the AAS in Aviation will be given 135 hours to complete the program and the PN and Health Sciences programs will be given 60 hours.
8. **Academic Fresh Start** – due to federal regulations, if a student is granted Academic Fresh Start it will have no bearing on their eligibility for financial aid.

## **NURSING STUDENTS**

Students in the Nursing Program will be considered to be making SAP to the extent that they are maintaining a 2.0 GPA and remain in the program. Students who re-enter the program must maintain a 2.0 GPA and have successfully completed 67% of attempted hours.