

## **2020-2021**

### **Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy For Undergraduate Financial Aid Applicants**

In order to remain eligible for assistance, financial aid applicants must meet standards of academic progress established in accordance with federal regulations. The academic progress and performance of aid applicants and recipients must be evaluated by the Office of Financial Assistance, annually. This evaluation will generally occur in May after spring semester grades are posted as a part of our determination of eligibility for the next academic year.

#### **Eligibility for Bentley Need-Based Aid and all Federal Financial Aid (including Federal PLUS Loans):**

Students must have at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average (GPA) in order to be awarded Bentley need-based grant funds or federal financial aid. Students who fail to meet this standard in the fall but who become eligible in the spring will be awarded Bentley funds and federal aid for the spring *only if funds are still available in January*.

In addition to a 2.00 minimum cumulative GPA, applicants for Bentley funds and federal aid must demonstrate academic progress by successfully completing (finishing with a passing grade) at least 67% of all attempted courses. An attempted course is one in which the student is enrolled after the second week of classes. Failure, withdrawal after the second week, or an incomplete (I) in a class constitutes an attempted course which is not successfully completed. Repeated courses will be counted in measuring this standard. Coursework completed through study abroad or transferred to Bentley from another institution will be counted in the measurement of course completion, but will not factor into a student's cumulative GPA at Bentley. In addition, aid applicants may not attempt more than 150% of the number of credits required for their degree. For instance, if your degree requires 122 credit hours, you may not attempt more than 183 credit hours to achieve this degree.

#### **Notification of Loss of Eligibility**

Students who apply for financial aid by April 1\* will be notified in writing by the Office of Financial Assistance during the month of June if they have lost eligibility for aid due to failure to meet these standards. Late applicants will be notified when review of their completed application begins. Students who regain eligibility by taking summer courses or as the result of a grade change must notify the Office of Financial Assistance to reactivate their aid application. Likewise, students who enroll for fall without the benefit of aid who regain eligibility for the spring should contact the office to be reviewed. Students who become eligible in the spring will be awarded as late applicants and may have reduced eligibility for aid from some programs.

#### **Appeals**

Students with significant and documented extenuating circumstances may appeal to regain eligibility through the Office of Academic Services. Appeals must be made in writing and are approved or denied at the discretion of the Associate Dean. Appeals must address the reason that a student has failed to make satisfactory academic progress, and describe what has changed to allow the student to make satisfactory progress in the future. Students whose appeals are approved are granted a semester of aid on financial aid probation. Students are expected to meet the standards of academic progress upon completion of the semester for which they were granted financial aid probation. Students may also be placed on an academic plan, which will require them to work with the Associate Dean of Academic Services to meet specified standards of progress to retain eligibility for aid in future semesters. Please note that a successful appeal does not guarantee a certain amount of financial assistance. You will be awarded based on your financial need and the availability of funds.

\*Please note: The priority financial aid application deadline for returning students was extended to May 1.