

May 1, 2024

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
FROM: Becky Thompson, Director of Student Financial Assistance
SUBJECT: Repayment Policy Options for 2024-25 PPA

WSAC is allowing a change for the 2024-25 Repayment Policy, to provide two options for colleges to choose from: **Option 1**) the current repayment policy where the students' state financial aid is considered 'earned' when at least one class for each registered course is attended; or, **Option 2**) by using the institution's census date which is the date by which the students' enrollments are 'frozen' and upon which financial aid is disbursed. Institutions will choose one option only.

Colleges will make the choice with the 2024-25 annual participation renewal process. This notification is to provide advance notice so you can consider your options.

Examples for illustrative purposes

OPTION 1: Student registers for full-time (12 credits) and attends one class for each course. Student has earned and been disbursed full state aid. Student then drops seven credits. No repayment is required but the student will complete the term with five credits which would put them on SAP suspension. Additionally, the 12 credits would be used in calculating the student's Pace which is newly aligned with the federal Pace requirement.

RESULT: Student not meeting SAP but can appeal to the FAO for aid reinstatement; One QER used unless repaid

OPTION 2: Student registers for full-time (12 credits) and begins attending the term. On the tenth day of the term, prior to census or 'lock' date, student drops seven credits. Awards must be recalculated to 5 credits and if funds were disbursed at full-time, the student will owe a repayment for the difference between full time and 5 credit enrollment. There is no additional repayment policy, e.g. last day of attendance calculation since as of census date the state financial aid is determined to be earned. The college has the option of returning the funds on behalf of the student, so no repayment is owed by the student, thus reducing barriers for future enrollment.

RESULT: Student owes a repayment, unless returned by the college, but SAP will be based on 5 credit revised enrollment and will meet SAP requirements and are eligible for future financial aid if the debt is repaid. However, the repayment will prevent the student from receiving any further financial if the debt is not paid in full prior to the next enrollment period. .42 QER used. The student's Pace would be calculated using 5 credits.

WSAC no longer uses last date of attendance to determine repayment. Students' award amounts are determined based on either option 1 or option 2. Students who fully withdraw are subject to institutional policies and Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policies.