Grants, Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Federal Direct PLUS

Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education

Federal student financial assistance for graduate students includes:

their course of study.

half-time per term and maintains satisfactory academic progress in

federal student financial assistance if the student is enrolled at least

Per federal regulations, a graduate student is eligible to receive

Financial Assistance

Graduate Academic Standards

It is the responsibility of the Graduate Academic Performance

Group (GAPG), operating with the authority of the Committee on

Graduate Programs (CGP), to monitor minimum academic standards

for graduate students and special students in accordance with the

rules and regulations of the Faculty. The GAPG reviews the academic

records of all graduate students at the end of each term (including

the summer session), giving particular attention to students with

cumulative ratings below 3.5 to 4.0. Consideration is given to

low grades and factors affecting a student’s ability to meet the

requirements for the degree program in which they are enrolled.

Students should consult with their specific graduate degree program

regarding grade expectations for remaining in good standing.

These expectations differ among graduate programs and in general

are different from those for undergraduate degree programs. A

passing grade in a particular class or classes may be one of many

factors a program considers in evaluating whether a student is

making adequate progress in the program. Note that in most

departments and graduate programs, grades consistently below

B are not normally considered an acceptable measure of progress

towards degree objectives. It is each department's responsibility

to inform students about academic performance requirements and

expectations.

Recommendations for action by the GAPG are made by departmental

graduate committees. Unless extenuating circumstances are found,

students who are not making satisfactory progress towards a degree

may be denied permission to continue or may be warned that without

substantial improvement the following term, they may be refused

further registration. In addition, departmental graduate committees

may recommend to the GAPG that a student be allowed to register

for the following term. Federal financial aid probation allows students to retain eligibility for

federal student financial assistance:

• Have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) exceeding 4.0 on

MIT’s 5.0 scale

• Pass 67% of cumulative credit units attempted (defined as

“pace”)

• Make satisfactory progress in their academic milestones, as

evaluated by their graduate program; and

• Not exceed five terms of enrollment for a Master’s candidate and

13 for a PhD or ScD candidate

Dropped subjects are not included in the GPA or pace calculations.

Transfer credits, which carry no grade, are not included in the

GPA calculation, but the number of transfer units a student has

is included in the pace calculation. Grades from incomplete units

are not included in the GPA calculation, but incomplete units are

included in the pace calculation. Grades for repeated units are

included in the GPA calculation, but repeated units can only be

counted once in the pace calculation.

At the end of each term, the Graduate Academic Performance Group

(GAPG) considers the academic performance of all enrolled graduate

students and decides on the appropriate action for students

not making satisfactory academic performance (e.g. academic

warning or denial of further registration).

If a student is placed on academic warning, a set of requirements

(academic plan) is set forth and communicated to the student so that

they may continue to be eligible for enrollment.

Students on, or eligible for, federal student financial assistance who

are placed on academic warning by the GAPG are concurrently placed

on federal financial aid warning or federal financial aid probation by

Student Financial Services (SFS).

• Students are put on federal financial aid warning if they were

not on academic warning in the prior term, but have been

placed on academic warning by the GAPG. Students on federal

financial aid warning may continue to receive federal student

financial assistance for the following term. Federal financial aid

warning status has no effect on the amount of financial aid a

student is eligible to receive from MIT, the federal government, or

any other source during the federal financial aid warning term.

• Students are put on federal financial aid probation if they

were on academic warning in the prior term and continue to

be placed on academic warning by the GAPG. Being on federal

financial aid probation allows students to retain eligibility for

federal financial aid; however, students may only be placed on

federal financial aid probation after a successful appeal. At MIT,

the GAPG review of a graduate student’s academic progress

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constitutes the required appeal process. Graduate students are encouraged to engage with and provide relevant information to their academic programs during the GAPG review. Any decision by the GAPG other than requiring the student to withdraw from MIT constitutes a continuation of the student’s academic plan and enables students to be placed on federal financial aid probation. Federal financial aid probation status has no effect on the amount of financial aid a student is eligible to receive from MIT, the federal government, or any other source during the federal financial aid probation term.