

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP SERVICES

SENMC Financial Aid Office

Southeast New Mexico College Financial Aid Office administers a broad spectrum of grants, loans, scholarships and work-study funding in an attempt to meet the financial need of SENMC students.

SENMC's Financial Aid Office awards financial aid to students according to their individual calculated need. Parents of students are expected to contribute to their child's education according to their ability, taking into account their income, assets, number of dependents and other relevant information. Students themselves are expected to contribute from their own assets and earnings, including appropriate borrowing against future income. All information provided to the SENMC Financial Aid Office is regarded as confidential in accordance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA).

Students applying for financial aid must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa/>) every year. The information reported on FAFSA is designed to determine, in accordance with state and federal guidelines, what the student or family is expected to contribute to the student's education. Among the factors that determine the family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) are:

1. Annual adjusted gross income as reported to the Internal Revenue Service.
2. Savings, stocks, and/or bonds.
3. Other assets in the form of a business, farm or real estate.
4. Non-taxable income and benefits; and
5. Student's prior-year income and assets.

Scholarships and Other Aid

Many students finance part of their education with scholarships, which may be awarded for academic achievement, special skills, talent and/or based on the applicants calculated financial need.

SENMC has a variety of scholarships that are offered to incoming freshman, transfer, and continuing students. State, institutional and private scholarships may also be available, but amounts, deadlines and eligibility requirements vary. For more information, contact the SENMC Financial Aid Office at 575-234-9226 or visit the SENMC scholarship website at <https://senmc.edu/financial-aid/scholarships.html>.

To be considered for most scholarships at SENMC for which you may be eligible you are required to apply online through <https://senmc.edu/documents/scholarships/senmc-scholarship-application.pdf>.

SENMC Financial Aid Office Contact Information

Financial Aid Office, Room 107
1500 University Drive
Carlsbad, NM, 88220
Phone: (575) 234-9225
financialaid@senmc.edu

General Eligibility Requirements

To receive financial aid you must be enrolled as a degree seeking student in an eligible degree or certificate program and demonstrate the following:

THAT YOU ARE QUALIFIED TO OBTAIN AN EDUCATION BY:

- Having a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate or
- Completing a high school education in a home-school setting approved under state law.

IF YOU WERE ENROLLED IN COLLEGE IN AN ELIGIBLE PROGRAM OR CAREER SCHOOL PRIOR TO JULY 2, 2012, YOU MAY SHOW YOU ARE QUALIFIED TO OBTAIN A HIGHER EDUCATION BY:

- Having passed an approved ability-to-benefit test (if you don't have a diploma or GED, a college can administer a test to determine whether you can benefit from the education offered at that school);
- Completing six credit hours or equivalent course work toward a degree or certificate (you may not receive aid while earning the six credit hours)
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL AID, YOU MUST ALSO:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (state funded scholarships are available to undocumented students).
- Have a valid Social Security number or Alien registration number as shown on a Government-issued naturalization certificate.
- Be in good academic standing and meeting satisfactory academic progress (SAP).
- Sign a statement on the FAFSA certifying that you will use Federal student aid only for educational purposes.
- Sign a statement on the FAFSA certifying that you are not in default on a federal student loan and that you do not owe money back on a federal student grant.
- Register with the Selective Service, if required.

Financial Aid Awards

All financial aid awards are based on information provided by the student and/or parents, availability of funds and eligibility requirements. Any award may be revised based on changes in enrollment, cost of attendance, application for graduation, family contribution or failure to meet satisfactory academic progress. Withdrawals (Drops) or reductions in enrollment may affect an award or any future awards. Financial aid will not pay for audited courses or some repeats.

GRANTS

The Federal Pell Grant is a federal grant available to undergraduate students with documented financial need. If the Pell Grant is insufficient to pay educational expenses, the student may be eligible to receive other types of aid, including a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) or Leveraging Education Assistance Partnership Program Grant (LEAP), and/or other miscellaneous grants. These grants are awarded to undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. Generally, grants do not have to be repaid. For more information, contact the SENMC Financial Aid Office or visit the college's financial aid website at: <https://senmc.edu/financial-aid/>.

FEDERAL DIRECT LOANS

Students must complete and submit a FAFSA application every year if they want to be considered for a Federal Direct Loan (or student loan). There are two types of loans that are available to students known as the Federal Subsidized Direct Loan and the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan.

FEDERAL DIRECT SUBSIDIZED LOAN

The Federal Direct Subsidized Loan is a loan program for eligible undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need. The U.S. Department of Education pays the interest on a Direct Subsidized Loan while the student is enrolled in school at least half-time.

FEDERAL DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN

The Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan is a loan program for eligible undergraduate students that do not demonstrate financial need. Unlike other federal loans, interest accrues while the student is attending school.

FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN REQUIREMENTS

Students receiving a subsidized or unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan will be required to complete an online entrance counseling session and a master promissory note. Students will also be required to complete an annual Student Loan Acknowledgment before loan funds can be issued to the student.

An exit counseling requirement must also be met once a student loan recipient graduates or withdraws (drops) from the school. Failure to complete this requirement may result in a delay in receiving a transcript or diploma.

Repayment of a Federal Direct Loan begins six months after graduation or six months after enrollment drops below 6 credits or less than time for undergraduate students.

Student loan requirement can be met by going to <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized> (<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized/>). *Please note that electronic notices will be sent to the school upon completion of each requirement.*

WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS

The Federal and State Work-Study Programs provide funds for part-time employment opportunities for eligible students and allows students the ability to work no more than 20 hours per week earning at least a minimum wage. It is possible that you may earn more depending on the type of work you do and the skills required for the position. Work-study awards are based on early FAFSA submission, financial need as determined by FAFSA, and available funding. Students may contact the Financial Aid Office if they have questions or need additional information by contacting us at 575-234-9225 or email financialaid@senmc.edu.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Federal regulations require all students receiving financial aid to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress in order to maintain eligibility for financial aid. The Financial Aid Office will review all financial aid recipients three times a year (end of Fall term, end of Spring term, and end of Summer term). The review will measure both qualitative (GPA) and quantitative (completion rate) standards. Financial aid awards include state and federal grants, federal direct loans, state and federal workstudy.

When evaluating Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), all terms of enrollment will be evaluated regardless of whether the student received financial aid during those terms. For transfer students, only those credits that are transferred to Southeast New Mexico College and counted

towards a degree program will be counted toward the Timeframe and when calculating Completion Rate.

All the satisfactory academic progress standards for students applying for and receiving financial aid, excluding academic suspensions, are established and monitored by the Financial Aid Office. Academic suspension standards are established and monitored by the Registrar.

NOTES OF IMPORTANCE:

- Federal regulations do not allow rounding of financial aid SAP standards.
- The financial aid SAP standards are not the same as SENMC's Academic Suspension Standards.
- Failing grades, withdrawals and incompletes will reduce a student's completion ratio as well as counting against maximum hours.
- Repeated courses count as attempted hours each time a student registers for them. Also, each course is counted in the student's financial aid GPA requirement.
- Academic renewal hours count toward all components of the SAP policy.
- Students who are suspended academically or choose not to attend because of SAP Suspension will not be automatically eligible for financial aid upon their return. Absence does not restore eligibility for financial aid. It remains the responsibility of the student to be knowledgeable of their SAP standard when returning to school after dismissal or choosing not to return because of SAP Suspension.
- Grade changes require students to submit a written request to have SAP recalculated after confirmation has been received that grade change has been posted to academic history.
- Summer Term Courses – all hours attempted and completed in the summer term are treated as any other semester hours in determining SAP status. SAP will be checked following the summer term as well.
- Audit Courses – students are not eligible to receive financial aid for audit courses. Audited courses are not included in hours attempted or earned for SAP determination.
- Financial aid will not be provided for certain courses taken by audit, credit hours earned by placement tests (CR), and Continuing Education (CE) courses.

Elements of Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress:

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) REQUIREMENT (QUALITATIVE)

- Students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA or greater on all hours attempted at SENMC.

COMPLETION RATE REQUIREMENT (QUANTITATIVE): PACE OF PROGRESSION TO ENSURE COMPLETION WITHIN THE MAXIMUM TIME FRAME.

- Students must complete 70% of all hours attempted. Grades of A's, B's, C's and D's will count as passed credits.
- All students are required to pass and complete 70% of all classes attempted. (Student will be ineligible for financial aid until completion rate is 70% or greater or an appeal for financial aid has been approved. Grades of I, RR, F, W, and U will be considered hours attempted but not completed.)

MAXIMUM TIME FRAME- PACE OF PROGRESSION

- Students receiving financial aid must complete their program of study within a reasonable time frame. The maximum time frame is 150% of the published length of the academic program or certificate (transfer credit hours counted towards degree program will be

included). Limited developmental coursework will not be counted in the maximum time frame.

- Example: Associate of Arts = 60 hours x 150% = 90 hours.
 - 90 credit hours is the maximum number of hours allowed by financial aid.

Consequences of not Meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):

Failure to meet one or more of the established financial aid standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress will make a student ineligible for financial aid. Students who have their financial aid revoked due to the failure to meet the SAP standards will remain ineligible until such time that they are able to meet the cumulative financial aid SAP standards. Those students will be responsible for payment of their own tuition and fees. In the following provisions, “warning”, “suspension” or “probation” means financial aid warning, suspension, or probation not academic warning, suspension, or probation.

1. **Financial Aid Warning** – A status assigned to a student who fails to make satisfactory academic progress at a school that evaluates academic progress at the end of each payment period and/or term, and chooses to allow students who fail its progress standards to continue to receive aid. If the student has not returned to satisfactory standing after this additional semester, he or she will be suspended from further financial assistance until the satisfactory progress standards are met.
 - a. NOTE – Because there are multiple components included in SAP, it is possible for a student to be placed in a warning status multiple times, for the same or different reason. Students, however, *cannot* be in a warning status for consecutive terms.
2. **Financial Aid Suspension** – If, after being placed on financial aid warning status, a student fails to meet the SAP standards of a cumulative 2.0 GPA and 70% completion rate, he or she will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension and will immediately lose financial aid eligibility.
3. **Financial Aid Probation (W-STIPS)** – When a student fails to make SAP and who has successfully appealed and has had eligibility for financial aid reinstated with an academic plan.
4. **Maximum Time Frame Suspension (Pace of Progression)** – Students must attain their degree on or before 150% of the published credits needed for a certificate or an associate degree.

If a student fails to meet the Maximum Time Frame standards, they will be placed on Maximum Time Frame Suspension and will immediately lose financial aid eligibility.

COMPLETE DEGREE OR CHANGE OF MAJOR

Credit hours obtained in a completed degree (i.e., a certificate, associates, etc.) will affect a student’s maximum timeframe. Students who change majors more than once will also have the attempted credit hours from the previous major count against the maximum time frame.

Appeals

Students that fall below the satisfactory academic progress requirements have the right to appeal their ineligibility for Financial Aid. All appeals are reviewed for extenuating circumstances by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee and/or Financial Aid Advisor.

Financial Aid appeals must contain the following documentation:

1. The student must complete the Appeal for Financial Aid and/or Scholarships form, describing in detail, all extenuating circumstance(s) that prevented the student from meeting the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic requirements for the most recent semester. If the student’s academic transcript indicates that the student had more than one difficult semester, the student must address the circumstance(s) for each semester.
2. The student must provide information about why he/she failed to make SAP, and what has changed in the student’s situation that would allow him/her to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress at the next evaluation.
3. Students should attach any documentation that is relevant to their circumstances, including supporting letters from counselors, doctors, ministers, and/or other appropriate third parties. For example, if the student had an illness that prevented them from attending classes, the student should provide a doctor’s note or medical billing statement as verification of illness.
4. The FA Appeals Committee/FA Advisor will act on the appeal in a timely manner, and if approved, financial aid eligibility may be reinstated for one additional semester after which the student must return to satisfactory academic standing. The Financial Aid Appeals Committee/FA Advisor may also require an academic plan that must be followed if returning to good standing is not possible in one semester’s time. If students who have previously been placed on suspension subsequently fail to meet either of the two standards, future eligibility will be immediately suspended. The student may also appeal this suspension. If mitigating circumstances do not exist, the student may secure alternative funding until the satisfactory academic requirements (see above) have once again been met.
5. Students exceeding the maximum timeframe rule and are pursuing a subsequent degree will need to explain in detail how the subsequent degree will benefit the students career and any mitigating circumstances surrounding their intent to pursue a subsequent degree.

Students are encouraged to access the applicable forms at senmc.edu or in person at the Financial Aid Office. Appeals may be submitted through their mySENMC account. Forms may also be submitted by email or in person to the Financial Aid Office.

All appeals must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by the deadline date which is two weeks after the semester’s census date of the student’s enrollment period. Appeals submitted after this deadline will be returned to the student.

Once a decision has been made on the appeal and the documentation provided, the student is to be notified of the committee’s/FA Advisor decision via SENMC email. If a student has a balance with Accounts Receivable, they should make payment arrangements while waiting on a decision, in case of a denial. **Decisions rendered by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee/FA Advisor are final.**

ACADEMIC PLAN AGREEMENT

Students will be required to visit with their Financial Aid Advisor in order to obtain their personalized Academic Plan Agreement. Failure to meet the terms and conditions of the academic plan will result in suspension from future Financial Aid eligibility.

ACADEMIC PLAN STATUS/PROBATION (W-STIPS)

Students who have had an appeal approved will be placed on an Academic Plan. The student will be considered for financial aid during the semester for which the student has applied and is otherwise eligible.

Students who are able to meet the minimum requirements of SAP within one term will receive an email listing the requirements of their Academic Plan Agreement. Students who need 2 or more terms to meet the minimum requirements of SAP will be required to meet with a FA Advisor and sign a copy of the Academic Plan Agreement.

The Academic Plan Agreement will be reevaluated by the Financial Aid Advisor at the end of each semester. Students may regain eligibility to receive financial aid for the next semester of enrollment by either:

1. Completing the semester with grades that bring the student into compliance with financial aid policies; OR
2. Completing the specific requirements of the Academic Plan Agreement. If the academic plan is required for more than one semester, the terms must be met for each semester of enrollment until the student has returned to the minimum standards as defined within the SENMC's SAP policy.

If the student again fails to meet the cumulative satisfactory progress standards at the end of one semester, they will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension.

Timeframe Requirements – Maximum Timeframe and Second Degree Seeking

MAXIMUM TIME FRAME (PACE OF PROGRESSION)

Students, who have exceeded the maximum timeframe for their declared program of study, must submit the Appeal for Financial Aid and/or Scholarships Form. This includes students returning to SENMC for a second or subsequent degree and are in violation of the Maximum Time Frame standard. Appeals need to be submitted to the Office of Financial Aid.

Students whose degree program requires more than the allowable credit hours within their grade level can submit a copy of their Degree Audit for review. This will not be counted as an Appeal submission.

Scenario: Tim is a Nursing student who has earned 91 attempted credit hours and per his degree audit, the program requires 70 credit hours. Based on the Time Frame calculation, Tim is still within his allowable Time Frame for his degree program making him eligible for Title IV funding.

His SAP status would be updated from suspension to good and a note needs to be made in the system: $70 (150\%) = 105$ attempted credit hours.

Transfer students who have transferred from outside institutions and have exceed the Maximum Time Frame standard must submit a copy of their Degree Audit in order to ensure that only transfer credit hours counted towards their program will be counted within their allowable Time Frame. This will not be counted as an Appeal submission.

Scenario: Samantha transferred to SENMC from an outside institution and 60 transfer credit hours were recorded on her academic record. She has also earned 50 attempted credit hours at SENMC, calculating her Time Frame at 110 attempted credit hours. Based on her Degree Audit, only 30 transfer credit hours are actually being counted towards her degree program, calculating her true

attempted credit hours at 80 credit hours and making her eligible for Title IV funding.

Her SAP status would be updated from suspension to good and a note needs to be made in the system: 30 Transfer credit hours that apply to degree + 50 attempted credit hours = 80 total attempted credit hours.

Students who have changed their degree program only once within their grade level are eligible to have their Time Frame reset and receive financial aid for the remaining courses left to complete degree program.

A copy of the Degree Audit must be submitted along with a letter from their academic advisor listing the remaining courses needed to complete the program.

Scenario: Jacob was first admitted to SENMC as an Associate of Arts Major, but then in his sophomore year decided that he wanted to become a teacher and changed his degree program to Education.

This has caused him to exceed his allowable Time Frame for his grade level due to the extra program requirements needed to become a teacher. The Financial Advisor has received a copy of the Degree Audit and letter from academic advisor listing the remaining courses the student has left to complete degree.

Student's SAP status would be updated from suspension to warning with stipulations and a note needs to be made. Student would also need to sign an academic plan, because the FA Advisor will need to track the student's courses each term and the student would need to complete each term with no W's, I's, F's, U's, and RR's.

Credit remedial courses, up to 30 credits, may be deducted from the total number of credits attempted when calculating timeframe since they do not count as a credit toward a degree; but may be required and taken within an eligible program.

An academic plan will be used for maximum time frame appeals that are approved for extenuating circumstances; this also includes second degree seeking students.

Examples of time frame maximums for most programs are listed below:

1. Certificate
 - a. 36 Attempted Credits
2. Associate Degree
 - a. 90 Attempted Credits

SECOND DEGREE STUDENTS

Students who have completed a pace of progression and have earned an Associate's Degree and wish to attempt a second degree at the same level, e.g., two associate degrees, will need to submit an appeal if the student has exceeded the maximum time frame standard within their initial degree. Within the appeal, the student will need to provide what extenuating circumstances are present and why they need to pursue the second degree. The student will also need to provide examples of how the second degree will benefit their career.

Students who are submitting an appeal will also need to submit a form with a signed statement for timeframe from their Academic Advisor listing the required courses remaining to complete their degree. The Academic Advisor must state the number of credit hours required for the degree and how many credits are remaining to complete the degree. The Financial Aid Committee/FA Advisor will review the form and determine

the total number of maximum allowable attempted credits hours for the student's second degree program.

- Second Degree seeking students will need to maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA and 70% completion rate.
- If the student's registered courses do not match the information listed on the document, they will be ineligible to receive financial aid.

Adjusted Credit Option

Students granted the Adjusted Credit Option (ACO) by SENMC will have to have their SAP separately calculated for Time Frame, Completion Rate, and GPA. Federal regulations do not allow a student's SAP to be calculated based on adjusted GPA, time frame or completion rate if Academic Amnesty has been applied to the student's records.

When evaluating a student with an ACO, the financial aid advisor must calculate their completion rate as would be done for any other student (all credits completed divided by all credits attempted). Time frame will be evaluated by adding all credits attempted at SENMC plus any transfer credits accepted at SENMC. For GPA, the actual non-adjusted cumulative GPA must be determined without any consideration of the ACO and the non-adjusted cumulative GPA must be used for purposes of evaluating SAP requirements. These students will be coded with ACO until reviewed.