

10 Things Faculty Advisors Should Know

About Financial Aid

1. Facts for First-Year Traditional Students with Financial Aid

- Entering first-year students with financial aid receive aid for a total of 32 courses, which translates to 8 semesters of enrollment in 4 full-time courses.
- Financial aid can vary depending on the student's enrollment status.

Enrollment	Courses/Semester	Aid Eligibility
Full-Time	3 – 5	Full-time aid
Part-Time	2 – 2.75	Adjusted for part-time
Less than Part-Time	.25 – 1.75	No funding in most cases

- To graduate “on-time,” (in 4 years/8 semesters) students should take 4 courses each semester.
- Students who drop below 4 courses per semester may make-up courses by:
 - Taking additional courses in any other semester (NOTE: Be aware of financial aid implications, see #5)
 - Taking courses over the summer here at Pitzer or elsewhere that can be transferred to Pitzer
 - Transferring credits from AP classes
- Students need to complete their degree within 8 semesters of full-time enrollment to retain full financial aid funding.

2. Enrollment after 32 Courses

- After earning 32 courses, students may become ineligible for institutional financial aid.
- There can be exceptions in cases when the student has reached 32 courses due to AP or transferred credits and those credits do not apply towards graduation requirements.
- Students who complete 32 courses and meet all graduation requirements prior to their 8th semester will not be funded if they continue to enroll.

3. Enrollment in Fewer than 3 Courses

- Fewer than 3 courses (.25 – 2.75 courses) can result in issues with financial aid eligibility.
- It can cause a student to fall behind and fail to make sufficient progress towards their degree.
- It causes financial aid to be adjusted (see chart above).

4. Enrollment in More than 5 Courses

- Enrolling in more than 5 courses incurs extra fees on the student's account that are not covered by financial aid (and therefore out-of-pocket to the student).
- Fee amounts are subject to change every year. These figures are based on 2017-2018 charges.

Courses	Amount Due
3 – 5 courses	Full-time tuition
5.25 – 5.75 courses	Full-time tuition plus a pro-rated overload fee from \$55 - \$165
6+ courses	Full-time tuition plus a \$220 overload fee (per course)

5. Add/Drop after Census

- Financial aid awards are based on the number of enrolled courses at census. Census is the last day of add/drop.
- Financial aid is not adjusted (up or down) for courses added or dropped after census (Note: Adding/dropping courses after census requires approval from the Academic Standards Committee).
- Example: Adding courses after add/drop
 - A student enrolled in 2 courses (part-time) at census has aid adjusted to reflect part-time status. If this student then adds 1 course after add/drop, they are charged full-time tuition.
 - Result: The student pays the difference between full-time tuition and their part-time aid due to enrollment at census.
- Example: Dropping courses after add/drop
 - A student enrolled in 4 courses at census has full-time aid. If this student drops 2 courses after add/drop, they are still charged for full-time tuition and receive full-time aid.
 - Result: The student is receiving a semester of full-time aid (4 courses) when they are part-time (2 courses). This causes the student to fall behind and possibly not graduate on time.

6. New Resource Students and Transfers

- Different rules apply to NRS and Transfer students.
- NRS financial aid eligibility is based on the number of approved transfer credits and academic standing (2nd year, 3rd year, etc.) as determined by the Registrar's Office.
- Transfer student initial eligibility is based on their academic standing (2nd year, 3rd year, etc.) at the time of admission.
- NRS can be enrolled part-time. Financial aid is adjusted based on enrollment status each term (part-time vs. full-time).

7. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

- Students must make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to maintain aid eligibility.
- SAP is a federal requirement that involves 2 main components:
 - Maintaining a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0
 - Making progress toward a degree by completing a certain number of courses over the period of attendance

8. Releasing Information

- Due to FERPA, the Office of Financial Aid can only disclose information with the student's consent.
- Students can complete a FERPA form with the Office of Financial Aid to give us permission to speak with faculty.

9. Contacting Us

- Each student is assigned a financial aid counselor based on the student's last name:
 - A – G: Catherine Acosta, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, catherine_acosta@pitzer.edu
 - H – N: Nancy Medina, Associate Director of Financial Aid, nancy_medina@pitzer.edu
 - O – Z: Kara Moore, Director of Financial Aid, kara_moore@pitzer.edu
- Students who experience academic difficulties, plan to drop courses, or change enrollment status, should be encouraged to meet with their counselor.

10. Important Dates to Re-Apply for Aid

- April 15: FAFSA, CSS Profile, and Scholarship Assignment form due
- May 1: Supporting tax and related documents due