

Financial aid/Scholarship Advising Tips

1. Stick to classes required for the student's degree. Students must complete a bachelor's degree by the time they have attempted 186 hours. Financial aid will be suspended at this point. All hours attempted at all schools are counted in this total number. That includes "forgiven" hours as well as all "W"s, "I"s, "AU"s and other graded hours both successful and unsuccessful.

2. Be careful not to "overload" the student with either classes in which they are not adequately prepared to succeed or just too many hours. Undergraduate students must maintain at least a 1.7 CGPA as a freshman and a 2.0 after the first year to continue to receive financial aid.

2. Be very careful when advising a student (that is passing a class) to drop the class. In addition to the rule that a student must complete a bachelor's degree within 186 hours attempted, the student must complete at least 70% of all hours attempted.

There are at least three specific situations where a grade of "W", "I", "AU" or other unsuccessful grade will adversely affect the student's continued financial aid.

- A. If the student is currently on financial aid probation for any reason.
- B. If the student is very close to falling below the 70% completion rate requirement.
- C. If the student has attempted more than 186 hours and has, per appeal, been approved to take specific hours to complete the degree. (No further major/catalog changes will be allowed.) When this approval is made, financial aid can pay for specific classes only once. If all approved hours are not successfully completed the student's financial aid will be suspended.

NOTE: Classes dropped within the first two weeks (drop/add period) are not graded and do not have an adverse affect on financial aid.

3. Continued scholarship eligibility requires that the student complete at least 24 hours at NWOSU each academic year and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 for participation scholarships and 3.5 for academic awards. Scholarship applications must be received in the financial aid office by March 15th each year in order to be considered for academic scholarships. (Students must be enrolled full-time to receive a scholarship. Scholarships do not have to be "paid back" if the student drops below full-time after the award has been applied to charges.)

4. Annual application is required for financial aid. Students must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) each year. Please refer any questions about this process to the financial aid office. Students must submit required paperwork by specific deadlines in order to be allowed to charge books to financial aid.

5. Financial aid must be paid back only if students drop all classes during the semester or fail to successfully complete any class AND did not attend at least 60% of the semester.

6. Refer students to our financial aid web page <http://www.nwosu.edu/financial-aid-office> . There are many helpful links including announcements and frequently asked questions for both students and staff.