



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Clarification of A+ GPA Guidance for Postsecondary Institutions

Issued April 7, 2020

On March 19, 2020, the Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development provided guidance related to **grade point average** for postsecondary students. This message provides additional clarification of that guidance based on questions we have received.

The March 19 guidance allows students to renew the award in the 2020-2021 academic year if they meet satisfactory academic progress as defined by the school by the end of the spring 2020 term, even if the school's definition requires less than a 2.5 cumulative grade point average. *To clarify, this guidance only applies to students who were eligible for an award, including a zero award, in at least one term in the 2019-2020 academic year.*

Example 1: Student Eligible for 2020-2021 Renewal

An initial student:

- Was eligible for a fall 2019 A+ award, but Pell reduced the award amount to zero
- Did not have a 2.0 CGPA at the end of fall (thus ineligible for spring)
- Is meeting the school's definition of SAP at the end of the spring 2020 term

This student is able to renew the award in the 2020-2021 academic year based on the school's definition of SAP because they were eligible for an award in at least one term (fall 2019) and is meeting the school's definition of SAP at the end of the spring 2020 term.

Example 2: Student Ineligible for 2020-2021 Renewal

A renewal student:

- Had less than a 2.5 CGPA at the end of spring 2019 (2018-2019 academic year)
- Enrolled in summer 2019 courses (2019-2020 academic year) but was ineligible for A+ due to the CGPA at the end of the prior academic year
- Had less than a 2.5 CGPA at the end of summer 2019

- Enrolled in fall 2019 courses but was ineligible for A+ due to the CGPA at the end of the summer 2019 term
- Had less than a 2.5 CGPA at the end of fall 2019
- Enrolled in spring 2020 courses but was ineligible for A+ due to the CGPA at the end of the fall 2019 term

This student cannot renew the A+ award in the 2020-2021 academic year based on the school's definition of SAP because they were not eligible for an award in at least one term in the 2019-2020 academic year. However, if the student has a 2.5 CGPA at the end of the spring 2020 term they would be eligible to renew the A+ award in the first term in which they enroll for the 2020-2021 academic year. Otherwise, this student cannot receive another award until they regain a 2.5 CGPA.

The department will issue additional guidance if it becomes necessary as this situation unfolds.