
HOUSE BILL 1955

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Van Werven, Manweller, Zeiger, Haler, Hargrove, Holy, Magendanz, and Kochmar

Read first time 02/04/15. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to defining satisfactory academic progress for
2 purposes of higher education; and amending RCW 28B.92.030.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.92.030 and 2013 c 248 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 As used in this chapter:

7 (1) "Council" means the student achievement council.

8 (2) "Disadvantaged student" means a posthigh school student who
9 by reason of adverse cultural, educational, environmental,
10 experiential, familial or other circumstances is unable to qualify
11 for enrollment as a full-time student in an institution of higher
12 education, who would otherwise qualify as a needy student, and who is
13 attending an institution of higher education under an established
14 program designed to qualify the student for enrollment as a full-time
15 student.

16 (3) "Financial aid" means loans and/or grants to needy students
17 enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a student at institutions of
18 higher education.

19 (4) "Institution" or "institutions of higher education" means:

1 (a) Any public university, college, community college, or
2 technical college operated by the state of Washington or any
3 political subdivision thereof; or

4 (b) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the
5 state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level
6 that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized
7 by rule of the council for the purposes of this section and that
8 agrees to and complies with program rules adopted pursuant to RCW
9 28B.92.150. However, any institution, branch, extension or facility
10 operating within the state of Washington that is affiliated with an
11 institution operating in another state must be:

12 (i) A separately accredited member institution of any such
13 accrediting association;

14 (ii) A branch of a member institution of an accrediting
15 association recognized by rule of the council for purposes of this
16 section, that is eligible for federal student financial aid
17 assistance and has operated as a nonprofit college or university
18 delivering on-site classroom instruction for a minimum of twenty
19 consecutive years within the state of Washington, and has an annual
20 enrollment of at least seven hundred full-time equivalent students;
21 or

22 (iii) A nonprofit institution recognized by the state of
23 Washington as provided in RCW 28B.77.240.

24 (5) "Needy student" means a posthigh school student of an
25 institution of higher education who demonstrates to the office the
26 financial inability, either through the student's parents, family
27 and/or personally, to meet the total cost of board, room, books, and
28 tuition and incidental fees for any semester or quarter. "Needy
29 student" also means an opportunity internship graduate as defined by
30 RCW 28C.18.162 who enrolls in a postsecondary program of study as
31 defined in RCW 28C.18.162 within one year of high school graduation.

32 (6) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance.

33 (7) "Placebound student" means a student who (a) is unable to
34 complete a college program because of family or employment
35 commitments, health concerns, monetary inability, or other similar
36 factors; and (b) may be influenced by the receipt of an enhanced
37 student financial aid award to complete a baccalaureate degree at an
38 eligible institution.

39 (8)(a) "Satisfactory academic progress" means the student's
40 successful completion of a minimum number of credit or clock hours

1 for each academic year, including summer, in which state financial
2 aid was received. Each institution of higher education's policy for
3 measuring a student's progress must define satisfactory academic
4 progress as the student's completion of the minimum number of credit
5 or clock hours for which the aid was calculated and disbursed.

6 (b) The minimum satisfactory academic progress standards for each
7 academic year including summer are as follows:

8 (i) Full-time students must complete thirty-six credits or nine
9 hundred clock hours;

10 (ii) Three-quarter time students must complete twenty-seven
11 credits or six hundred seventy-five clock hours;

12 (iii) Half-time students must complete eighteen credits or four
13 hundred fifty clock hours;

14 (iv) Less than half-time students must complete nine credits or
15 two hundred twenty-five clock hours.

16 (c) Each institution's policy must deny further disbursements of
17 state financial aid at the conclusion of any academic year, including
18 summer, in which the student fails to complete at least one-half of
19 the minimum number of credits or clock hours for which the aid was
20 calculated and disbursed or otherwise fails to fulfill the conditions
21 of the institution's satisfactory academic progress policy.

22 (d) The institution may make disbursements to a student who is in
23 probationary status. As used in this subsection (8)(d), "probation"
24 means completion of at least one-half, but less than all of the
25 minimum number of credits or clock hours for which the aid was
26 calculated and disbursed. The institution must have a probation
27 policy, approved by the institution's board of trustees, that limits
28 the number of terms in which a student may receive financial aid
29 while in probationary status.

30 (e) The institution's financial aid administrator may at any
31 time, using professional judgment exercised on a case-by-case basis,
32 reinstate a student back into a satisfactory academic progress status
33 in response to an individual student's extenuating circumstances.

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