

The Online Programs Newsletter

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MU's EPPIC Values

- Exploration
- Public Mission
- Professionalism
- Inclusion
- Integrity
- Compassion

Greetings from the Director of Online Programs

Welcome to our spring semester! We welcome all our new online students that began their degrees with MU this spring. As we navigate the cold weather and hope for warmer days soon, we look ahead to registra-

tion for our summer and fall terms. As a reminder for all online students, we offer summer courses beginning in May, June, and July. Summer is a good time to catch up on any courses needed! For all our online students,

please reach out to our office at onlineprograms@millersville.edu or 717-871-7200 with any questions!

Rebecca Boyer
Director of Online Programs



New P#

As part of a plan to move all state universities to one operating system for ease of transfers, etc, Millersville University has made the move to OneSIS. For students, this means you will no longer use the M# as your student ID. You

will now have a P# as your student ID. This number can be used at any PASSHE state university.

Please be patient with instructors and advisors as we adjust to the new system and new P#'s.

Effective with the Summer '25 term, all students will be using the P# as their ID number. If you were a student prior to Fall '25, instructors may still ask for your M# in the interim as the changeover occurs.

Understanding Satisfactory Academic Progress: Key to Maintaining Financial Aid Eligibility

Satisfactory Academic Progress or SAP is the successful completion of coursework toward a degree completion.

Federal regulations require institutions of higher education to establish minimum standards for measuring whether you are making progress toward a degree.

Making progress toward a degree is important for your academic success and a key factor in reducing student debt.

In order to receive certain types of financial aid, you must make SAP at the end of each academic year. If you do not meet the minimum requirements, you could lose your financial aid eligibility.

What Types of Aid does SAP Apply to?

SAP applies to all students seeking Federal Title IV Financial Aid including:

- Pell Grant
- FSEOG
- Subsidized & Unsubsidized loans
- Parent & Graduate Plus loans
- Work Study

Some Millersville scholarships, grants, departmental awards and awards from external sources may also require a student to meet SAP standards to be eligible for or to continue receiving funding.

If you are a PA State grant recipient, the PA Higher Education Assistance Agency has a separate SAP policy.

Please go to millersville.edu/grants and click on PA State Grants for more information.

How is SAP Measured?

SAP has 3 separate measures.

Students must meet all 3 components to be considered making satisfactory academic progress.

1. **Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)** is a qualitative measure. This is your overall gpa at Millersville. You must maintain a cumulative gpa of 2.0 or higher after 4 semesters at MU..
2. **Completion Rate (Pace)** is a quantitative measure. This is calculated by dividing the total number of credits earned by the total number of credits attempted. You must successfully complete 67% of your total attempted credits at MU. Earned credits include any course that you received a D- or better. Attempted credits include courses that you have passed and those you may have repeated, failed or withdrawn from. Courses taken at MU and any credits transferred to MU count as attempted credits.
3. **Maximum Timeframe.** Students must complete their program of studies within 150% of the published program length. For example, a Bachelor's degree requires a minimum of 120 credits earned. 150% of 120 is 180. This means a student attempting to earn a Bachelor degree can receive aid up to 180 credits attempted.

When is SAP Reviewed?

Each student is measured by SAP annually in May after Spring grades are processed. This evaluation determines if a student has made sufficient progress & whether or not they are eligible for future financial aid.

Students who have not met the minimum SAP requirements will be sent an email to their MU email address if they are not eligible.

Can You Regain Eligibility?

If you have met the maximum timeframe component for your program, you cannot regain eligibility. However, you are encouraged to contact the Financial Aid office to discuss other options.

If you are not meeting the GPA or completion rate component, you will regain eligibility once you have met the minimum GPA requirement and/or have increased your completion rate to 67% or higher.

Taking and passing additional credits can help increase your completion rate and GPA. Keep in mind, transfer credits may help you increase your completion rate but they won't increase your GPA.

If you have extenuating circumstances that led to you not making SAP for those two components, you may be able to appeal. Check the Financial Aid website for more information at www.millersville.edu/fa-appeal.

For additional information on SAP: <https://www.millersville.edu/finaid/maintaining-eligibility/sap.php>

Graduating from MU

When you are completing your degree here at MU, you are eligible to walk in one of our two commencement ceremonies. MU holds a spring ceremony in May and a winter ceremony in December.

To be eligible to walk in the spring ceremony, you must finish your degree requirements by the end of the summer term. For example, you may participate in this spring's commencement on May 10, 2025 as long as you have completed your degree requirements by the end of the summer term on August 15, 2025.

To be eligible to walk in the winter

ceremony, you must complete your degree requirements by the end of the winter term.

When you and your advisor have determined that you are completing your degree, please notify Online Programs so that we can register you for GRAD 999. There is no cost for GRAD 999, but it does trigger you to receive important emails about graduation and the commencement ceremonies.

You will also need to complete an application for graduation. This can be found online.

Even if you do not plan to participate in the commencement ceremony, it is important that you register for GRAD 999 and complete the application for graduation.



'Ville Daily - Junk Email???

If you check your MU email daily - which you should be - every weekday around 10:00am you receive an email from the University entitled 'Ville Daily. This is not junk email. This is a daily e-newsletter sent to all students, faculty and staff with important announcements. Announcements are screened and approved before being included in the newsletter. You will notice it is divided into several sections: University, Students, Staff and Faculty.

As an online student, you may feel that nothing in the 'Ville Daily applies to you, but this is not true. While many of the announcements are for on-campus events, there are many announcements from Financial Aid and the Registrar's office that you will find very helpful. If you live near campus, you can participate in any and all on-campus events, so don't disregard the 'Ville Daily as junk. It is an important part of our communications with you - an MU student!

hello
Spring



Online Career Resources

Millersville's Career Center offers many online resources.

Career Coaching & Career Document Assistance including One-on-One Appointments - If you need individualized assistance searching for jobs, internships, improving your resume, and preparing for virtual interviews; you can schedule an appointment through Handshake with a staff member for a virtual career coaching ses-

sion.

The Center also offers virtual career document reviews or eCritique Services.

You simply need to send an email to careers@millersville.edu with, "Resume or Cover Letter Feedback" in the subject line. Attach your resume or cover letter as a Word document ONLY. Please do not send PDFs or links to Google docs. Allow 5-7

days for your review to be completed.

They also offer an array of virtual learning and professional skill building resources including University Alumni Networking and Tips on Creating a Professional Headshot from Home. For more resources go to <https://www.millersville.edu/career-center/careerservices/online-career-services.php>

Office of Online Programs

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We're on the web:
Millersville.edu/onlineprograms

Millersville's Online Programs are designed for adult learners who wish to complete their degree. We offer degree completion programs in the following programs:

- Bachelor's in Business Administration
- Bachelor's in Public Relations
- Bachelor's in Design in Interactive & Graphic Design
- Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education
- Bachelor's in Special Education
- Bachelor's in Emergency Management
- Bachelor's in English with a Writing Studies Concentration
- Bachelor's in Marketing
- Bachelor's in Management
- Bachelor's in Nursing
- Bachelor's in Social Work

Starfish: What is it?

Starfish is a program for monitoring student success. It works with all members of MU to address specific student needs and connect students to resources - including online students.

Faculty can share their concerns through Flags and Referrals for a timely impact upon students' success. They can also encourage students through positive feedback using Kudos.

In Starfish, you can find direct links to your support team including your current instructors, your advisor and your success coaches.

Don't know how to connect to valuable resources, services and personalized interventions on campus - check Starfish for the information and links. All of these resources are

available to online students.

Featured tools include:

(1) **academic progress surveys** which provide timely updates on individual student course progress each semester, (2) **attendance surveys** to flag any students who have not or have stopped attending class, (3) **early alerts** which let students and academic advisors know when a student is staying on track or may need additional academic supports, (4) **student-generated "request help questions"** to get learners proactively connected to needed resources and information, and (5) **appointment and calendar features** for students to schedule meetings.

You will receive email notifications regarding Kudos, Flags, or To-

Dos. Kudos are positive notes to let you know that you are doing well in a class and they don't require any further action. Flags and To-Dos are raised to provide extra support, information, or tasks that need to be accomplished for your success in classes. Please read the details of each notification and follow up with your instructor, advisor, or as directed to resolve the flag. Log into your Starfish account to see all your notifications.

If you have questions about Starfish and how it can help you be successful here at MU, please reach out to your Online Support Specialist with questions.



Starfish