

Veterans Education Benefits Recipients: Satisfactory Progress Policy

To be eligible for veterans' educational benefits, recipients must maintain satisfactory academic progress in accordance with Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) standards as printed in the College Catalog. The following standards must be met:

- A recipient may only be certified for enrollment in courses required to complete the program of study, either at NOVA or at another approved post-secondary institution.
- A recipient must be placed in a program of study by the end of the second term of enrollment and have all prior training evaluated and applied to his/her program.
- Developmental or deficiency courses may be certified when a need is established through placement and assessment testing.

A recipient will be reported by the campus veteran's advisor to the Department of Veterans Affairs as failing to make satisfactory progress when the cumulative grade point average (GPA) falls below the required level based on the following schedule:

Regular Credits Attempted (Grades A, 13, C, D, F)	Minimum Cumulative GPA Requirement
13-23	1.50
24-27	1.75
48+	2.00

This standard will be applied at the end of each term. However, when a recipient has not achieved the minimum cumulative GPA requirement but has achieved a term's GPA of at least a 2.0 for the term being evaluated, the student will be considered to have achieved satisfactory progress.

If a student's academic record does not meet the above standards, the student will be notified in writing by the veterans advisor that the next term will be **probationary**. The student will be required to meet with a counselor or faculty advisor to develop a written plan to indicate how to successfully complete the educational objective and how to satisfy the GPA requirement for satisfactory academic progress toward graduation. This plan will be maintained in the student's file in the campus Veterans Affairs office.

If the student does not meet the minimum cumulative GPA requirement or does not earn a minimum GPA of 2.0 for the probationary term, the student's name will be reported to the Department of Veterans Affairs as not making satisfactory academic progress. If the student does receive a minimum GPA of 2.0 for the probationary term, the student may be certified for that term on a retroactive basis. When the cumulative GPA meets or exceeds the minimum requirement, educational benefits will be restored on a regular basis.

A recipient who is on **Academic Suspension** will be ineligible for certification and will be reported to the Department of Veterans Affairs as failing to make satisfactory academic progress. At this point, the College will cease providing certifications of enrollment to the VA. The student will be reinstated only upon achieving the required cumulative GPA through continued enrollment at NOVA at his/her own expense. The term's GPA will have no effect. The cumulative GPA will determine satisfactory academic progress. Enrollment certifications may not be retroactive unless the Department of Veterans Affairs has approved mitigating circumstances.

A student may request a probationary period by writing to the Department of Veterans Affairs when academic deficiencies are the result of mitigating circumstances. If mitigating circumstances are found and accepted, the student will present this evidence to the campus Veterans Advisor for certification of the term in which progress was unsatisfactory.

A recipient will be notified in writing when he or she has not met the minimum standards. Questions regarding academic standing should be addressed to the campus Veterans Advisor or the Dean of Students on the student's campus.