

## **SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) POLICY FOR FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY**

All Federal Financial Assistance Programs are authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended, and require the establishment of minimum standards of academic progress that students must meet to maintain general eligibility for financial aid. While students meeting these standards are generally eligible for aid, some aid programs require higher standards that may preclude the student from qualifying for those programs.

John Marshall Law School – Atlanta Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy for Financial Aid Eligibility applies to all aid programs administered by or through the Office of Financial Aid. These standards apply to all students seeking or receiving assistance whether or not aid may have been received previously.

### **LAW STUDENTS**

The **Qualitative Standards**: Graduate students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0. Students with a GPA of less than 2.0 are not eligible to receive financial aid.

The **Incremental Quantitative Standards**: Graduate students must successfully complete 50% of the cumulative hours attempted. The incremental assessment is performed after grades are posted at the end of Spring semester.

The **Time Limitation Quantitative Standards**: From the date of first enrollment in a specific degree program, students seeking a law degree must complete all degree requirements (including research and thesis) within five years.

### **GENERAL POLICY & PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO ALL STUDENTS:**

**Withdrawal:** Any student withdrawing from coursework will be evaluated based on the minimum number of credit hours attempted at the point of aid disbursement. E.G., a student enrolled in 18 hours and withdraws from 6, the evaluation is based on 12 hours. Anything less than 12 hours will have an adverse effect.

**Termination of Aid:** Students who are dismissed from JMLS for any reason are terminated from financial aid. Students who do not meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards for Financial Aid Eligibility as of the end of the SAP Probation period will be terminated from financial aid until they are again in full compliance.

**Readmit Policy:** Students applying for readmission to the School are eligible for financial aid if: (1) they meet the SAP standards in effect at the time of readmission; or (2) after they have successfully completed the terms of their readmission. This policy may not be appealed. Students in category 2 who have not attended JMLS for 2 or more years prior to being readmitted are not required to do a SAP appeal. However, they must have remaining aid eligibility.

**Reinstatement of Aid:** Students who are terminated from financial aid may submit an appeal for reinstatement of eligibility when they have mitigating circumstances beyond their control that resulted in deficiencies that could not be made up. Such circumstances include the student's injury or illness, death of a relative, or other special circumstances. In cases where the student and/or student's family lives in an area that has been officially declared a National Disaster Area, an appeal may be filed.

Appeal forms for reinstatement of eligibility are available from the Associate Dean for Academics for students below a 1.9 after their first year and part-time students below a 1.9 their 2<sup>nd</sup> year they are available for 2<sup>nd</sup> year full-time students whose GPA is below a 2.0. All first year students between a 2.0 and 1.9 GPA and 2<sup>nd</sup> year part-time students between a 2.0 and a 2.9 GPA must appeal with the Director of Financial Aid in writing. Appeals for reinstatement of eligibility are the responsibility of the student. The appeal must be submitted within the determined calendar of appeal and include the term for which reinstatement is requested. Appeals must specifically reflect the unique circumstances that were beyond the control of the student. The appeal should provide specific resolution to circumstances and supporting documentation as indicated on the appeal form.

Students appealing for reinstatement of eligibility remain ineligible to receive aid, but may pursue participating in the JMLS Semester Installment Payment Plan through the Office of Student Accounts. Students should be prepared with other resources to pay all educational expenses not covered by the Payment Plan. Students whose appeals are approved may have their eligibility for aid reinstated. Financial aid may be awarded if the student meets routine eligibility criteria, subject to availability of funds.