

## BETH MEDRASH GOVOHA

### SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

All degree-seeking students pursuing an approved program at Beth Medrash Govoha are required to maintain satisfactory progress toward graduation. Students are eligible to receive Title IV federal financial aid as long as they maintain satisfactory academic progress. The satisfactory progress standards for students who receive Title IV federal financial aid are the same as for all degree-seeking students enrolled at Beth Medrash Govoha.

Each degree-seeking student is evaluated at the end of each payment period (the Fall and Spring semesters, and summer term) to ensure that he continues to maintain satisfactory academic progress, both in relation to his grades and to his progress towards his degree within the maximum timeframe. (Students are considered to be making satisfactory academic progress from their initial admission to Beth Medrash Govoha until they complete their first semester of coursework.) In order for a student to be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress in Beth Medrash Govoha, he must meet the following qualitative and quantitative standards at each SAP evaluation:

#### QUALITATIVE STANDARD

The student must maintain a C (2.0) grade point average at each SAP evaluation. The grading scale used for academic record-keeping and for the calculation of GPA is as follows:

GRADE	NUMERIC EQUIVALENT
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D	1.0
F	0
I	Incomplete
W	Withdrawn without penalty

The Grade Point Average is calculated by adding the numeric equivalent awarded for each credit hour and dividing the total by the number of credit hours attempted. The Grade Point Average is calculated to the nearest hundredth. If a student's GPA reaches the third decimal (thousandths), the GPA is rounded to the nearest hundredth as follows: If the digit in the thousandths place is 5 through 9, the digit in the hundredths place is incremented by adding one hundredth to the total. If the digit in the thousandths place is 0 through 4, the digit in the hundredths place remains the same.

Credit hours with a grade of Incomplete and Withdrawn without Penalty are not included in the determination of the grade point average, although those hours with a grade of Fail are included. If a

student receives failing grades for all of his courses, the student will generally be considered as having unofficially withdrawn unless there is evidence that he completed the semester.

### QUANTITATIVE STANDARD

The student must earn credit at a pace that will allow him to finish his program within a certain defined time span. At Beth Medrash Govoha, this maximum timeframe is 150% of the published length of the program. A full-time undergraduate student must complete the undergraduate program within 150% of the published program length, within 224 total attempted credits. A full-time graduate student enrolled in the Master’s of Talmudic Studies program must complete the graduate program within 150% of the published program length, within 90 total attempted credits .

A student’s pace is calculated by dividing the cumulative number of credits he has earned by the cumulative number of credits he has attempted. The resulting percentage is rounded to the nearest whole number to determine if the resulting percentage meets the pace requirement. (If the result ends in .5, the result is rounded to the next whole number.) A student must have successfully earned credits at the pace indicated in the charts below to be considered progressing within the limits of the maximum timeframe.

### MAXIMUM TIME FRAMES AND PACE OF COMPLETION

The pace of a student’s completion of the five-year undergraduate program leading to a Bachelor of Talmudic Studies degree must not exceed 150% of the published length of the program measured in credit hours earned by accumulating credits at a pace equal to or greater than a certain percentage of the total credits attempted (see chart below).

CREDITS ATTEMPTED	PERCENTAGE EARNED
0-15 credits	0%
15-20 credits	15%
20-28 credits	25%
28-40 credits	45%
41-46 credits	<b>60%</b>
47 credits and above	<b>67%</b>

The maximum timeframe to complete the two-year graduate program leading to a Master of Talmudic Studies degree must not exceed 150% of the published length of the program measured in credit hours earned by accumulating credits at a pace equal to or greater than a certain percentage of the total credits attempted (see chart below).

CREDITS ATTEMPTED	PERCENTAGE EARNED
0-15 credits	0%
15-20 credits	15%
20-28 credits	25%
28-40 credits	45%
41-46 credits	<b>60%</b>
47 credits and above	<b>67%</b>

**Transfer Credits:** Transfer credits applied towards a student's educational program will be considered as attempted and earned credit hours. Transfer credits are not considered in the GPA calculation. Credits earned in previous institutions that were not transferred to a student's program in Beth Medrash Govoha are not considered in the SAP calculation.

**Incompletes:** A student who has received an incomplete (I) on a course will be considered to have attempted but not earned credit so long as the I grade remains. The student's GPA will not be affected. Please see below for additional information on Beth Medrash Govoha's policy regarding "incomplete" courses.

**Withdrawals:** A student who registers for a course and withdraws will receive a grade of W due to his early withdrawal. Withdrawn courses will be considered as attempted but not earned credit. Withdrawals do not affect the GPA calculation.

**Repetitions:** A student may repeat a course. All repeated courses are counted in the number of the student's attempted credits, and are included in the student's GPA, including failing grades. A student repeating a course must remain within the time frame required for SAP standards.

A repeated course in which the student has already received a passing grade is counted towards the student's enrollment status only the first time the course is retaken. A repeated course in which the student received a failing grade is always counted towards the student's enrollment, regardless of how many times he repeats that course in an attempt to pass.

**ESL and Remedial Courses:** Beth Medrash Govoha does not offer ESL or courses and remedial courses. Therefore, ESL and remedial courses do not have any effect on SAP at Beth Medrash Govoha.

**Changing Majors:** Every degree-seeking student at Beth Medrash Govoha is required to pursue the Talmudic Studies major. A student who declared an additional major maintains the same SAP eligibility calculation, as his credits from his first major still apply towards his degree.

**Earning Additional Degrees:** Beth Medrash Govoha students are expected to pursue one degree program at a time. SAP is always calculated based on the program the student is currently enrolled in.

**New Information:** If after a student's SAP status was checked additional information becomes available that could impact either the quantitative or qualitative measure of SAP for that student, the Registrar's Office will recheck SAP at the point that the information becomes available to determine if the student's SAP status has changed since his most recent SAP check.

## **FAILURE TO MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

At the time of the evaluation of Satisfactory Academic Progress, any student who has not achieved the required GPA or who is not successfully completing his educational program at the required pace will be notified in writing by the Registrar's Office that he is on financial aid warning until the next Satisfactory Academic Progress evaluation. A student in this category may receive financial aid for the semester during which he is on financial aid warning. However, the student must meet the minimum grade and completion requirements by the end of the warning period, as defined above, in order to receive additional financial aid.

If a student fails to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements by the end of the financial aid warning period, the student will no longer be making satisfactory academic progress and will be ineligible for assistance under the Title IV, HEA programs. Any student whose evaluation has found that the student is not maintaining satisfactory academic progress will be notified by the Registrar's Office in writing that his Title IV eligibility is terminated for the upcoming semester, in the absence of a timely appeal.

## **APPEALS**

Students may appeal the determination that they are not meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress through the following process: The student must submit an appeal to the Registrar's office in writing to Beth Medrash Govoha, 617 Sixth Street, Lakewood, NJ 08701 or via email to mrockove@bmg.edu. Appeals must be submitted within 30 days of receipt of notification from the Registrar's Office that the student has failed the satisfactory academic progress evaluation following the financial aid warning semester, or has failed to reestablish Satisfactory Academic Progress during his warning semester.

The appeal must include an explanation from the student for his failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress. Only circumstances beyond the student's control would constitute an acceptable basis for appeal (for example, death of a relative, illness or injury in the immediate family, or other special circumstances, which impact a student's ability to complete his coursework). The student must indicate what has changed in his situation that will enable him to reestablish satisfactory academic progress.

The Associate Dean of Students will evaluate the appeal. The Registrar's Office will then notify the student of the Associate Dean of Students' determination in writing and in a timely manner.

The following are the possible determinations that will be made:

- If it is determined that the student will be able to meet the standard Satisfactory Academic Progress standards at the end of the probationary semester, Beth Medrash Govoha may approve the appeal. In this case the student will be granted one semester of financial aid probation, during which time he retains Financial Aid eligibility. The student must achieve Satisfactory Academic Progress at the end of the probationary semester in order to continue to receive Title IV aid. The Registrar's Office will evaluate the student's Satisfactory Academic Progress at the end of the probationary period. Should the student not have made satisfactory academic progress by the end of the probationary period, he becomes ineligible for Title IV funds for the subsequent semester(s).
- If it is determined that the student will not be able to meet the standard Satisfactory Academic Progress standards at the end of the probationary semester, Beth Medrash Govoha may approve the appeal, contingent on the student's acceptance of an academic plan approved by the Associate Dean of Students. This will enable the student to regain Satisfactory Academic Progress within the time period defined in the academic plan. This plan may include special tutoring, modification in scheduling, or any other form of academic assistance.

The student's progress will be reviewed at the end of his first semester on the plan to determine if he's continuing to meet the requirements specified by the academic plan. If he is meeting the requirements, he will be removed from probationary status and will be considered as meeting the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards.

The student's continued progress will be evaluated at intervals initially specified in the academic plan. As long as he continues to meet the criteria of his academic plan, he is considered to still be making Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Beth Medrash Govoha may deny the student's appeal if it is incomplete or without merit. In such a case, Beth Medrash Govoha will notify the student that a determination has been made that he is not eligible for Title IV aid due to his failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. If the student wishes to submit new or additional information or documentation, Beth Medrash Govoha will consider the new information or documentation as per the same criteria as detailed above.

### **REGAINING TITLE IV ELIGIBILITY**

Once a student has lost his Title IV eligibility due to failure to meet SAP, if he would like to regain Title IV eligibility, the student must achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 and be progressing adequately in courses completed vs. attempted, as explained in detail above.

At the end of each semester, the Registrar's Office will evaluate the progress of every student previously found ineligible for Financial Aid, in order to determine which students are now meeting SAP and are therefore eligible to regain their Title IV eligibility.

The student's reinstatement as a regular student who is eligible for Title IV aid will occur with the start of the semester after he successfully re-establishes satisfactory academic progress, which is checked at the end of each semester. Students who have re-established Title IV eligibility, or who have successfully completed a probationary period and re-established SAP, will be notified in writing by the Registrar's Office at the beginning of the semester in which they regain regular eligibility for Title IV.

Copies of all official notifications to students regarding Satisfactory Academic Progress and Title IV eligibility will be maintained in the student's academic folder.

### **INCOMPLETES AND WITHDRAWALS**

Students who fail to complete all required coursework may be allowed up to six months to fulfill the requirements for the course, during which time the grade "I" (Incomplete) will be assigned. If the work is not completed satisfactorily by the required time, the grade of "I" will be changed to an "F" and will be counted as such in the student's GPA.

Students who withdraw from a course will have the course recorded as Withdrawn without Penalty. This grade will not be counted in the student's GPA. However, withdrawals from courses may cause students to fall below the minimum number of credits earned necessary to maintain satisfactory progress, which may jeopardize the student's ability to receive Title IV aid (as described above).