



Explanation of Circumstances and Documentation for Financial Aid Appeal

Federal law provides that the College may waive the requirement that a student is making satisfactory academic progress and reinstate the student's eligibility to receive financial aid if on appeal the College determines that the student's failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress during the semester under review was the result of any of the following:

- Death of a close relative: Documentation required to be submitted should include a death certificate or newspaper funeral notice.
- Injury, illness, or disability of the student or a family member. Generally, this would not include the flu, a common cold, or other types of outpatient illnesses. Documentation required to be submitted should include a physician's statement or other health care provider's statement documenting the nature of the illness and that the student was unable to attend school during the semester under review for an extended period of time (more than three weeks).

A student with a disability who is provided reasonable requested accommodations is required to meet the academic standards of the College and would not generally be granted a waiver of the requirements to make satisfactory academic progress based solely on the fact that he or she has a disability. There may be circumstances, however, where the granting of a waiver would be appropriate. Possible examples of such circumstances would include, but are not limited to, when a disability is first discovered during the semester under review or the nature of a disability changes during the semester under review due to circumstances beyond the student's control. Documentation required to be submitted should include a physician's statement or other health care provider's statement documenting the nature of the disability, when the disability was first discovered, and whether the nature of the disability has changed during the semester under review. A healthcare provider may utilize a College prepared letter available online at www.pima.edu/financialaid. In addition, the student is encouraged to consider including with the appeal a statement from his or her Disabled Student Resources specialist.

- Prior Academic history
- Other extenuating circumstances beyond a student's control: There may be circumstances that significantly impact a student's ability to maintain satisfactory academic progress such as when a student is the victim of a crime, the victim of physical or emotional abuse, or there is a significant breakdown of a relationship in a student's family. Documentation required to be submitted from third parties will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Submission of an appeal is not a guarantee of reinstatement of financial aid eligibility. A committee will review appeals on a case-by-case basis. Reinstatement of financial aid eligibility is only granted for extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the student. Inability to master course material is not an extenuating circumstance. The outcome of any appeal will depend on the following: (1) the nature of a student's circumstances causing his or her failure to make satisfactory academic progress, including the student's academic record prior to such circumstances; (2) the quality of the documentation provided by the student in support of his or her appeal; and, (3) how well the student demonstrates his or her current ability to make satisfactory academic progress in the future.