

Academic Requirements M.P.P. and M.A.S. Students

Federal regulations require institutions to monitor each student's progress toward earning a degree within the maximum time frame permitted for the student's degree or course of study. Failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) jeopardizes a student's eligibility to receive University or federal financial aid.

All required coursework for the M.P.P. program must be completed within five years of the date of matriculation. If the degree program has not been completed within five years, the student may request an extension from the Committee on Academic Progress. Extensions will be granted only in rare circumstances, only for a period of one year for the two-year regular M.P.P. program, and only for a period of one term for the one-year M.A.S. program.

In addition, if a student withdraws from courses, resulting in the pursuit of fewer than 4 credits in a single term, the student's total estimated costs and eligibility for financial aid will be recalculated.

Satisfactory Progress Toward Degree Completion

Students in the M.P.P. program must pass all core requirements. Any student who fails a required course must retake it and pass it. The Committee on Academic Progress will review the academic performance of a student whose record in any term shows a significant decline or if there is a reason for concern about the overall quality of a student's work.

All candidates are required to achieve at least two grades of Honors in graduate courses while maintaining an overall grade average of High Pass.

M.P.P. students are expected to have completed eight courses at the end of their first year, with at least one grade of Honors and an average of High Pass. This is required to make satisfactory progress toward the degree and remain in "good academic standing."

Jackson students are expected to take four credits per term. Students may elect to take five credits. Students who have completed five credits in a semester may elect to take only three credits in a later semester.

International Students

Less than Full Time

F-1 student status requires students to be enrolled on a full-time basis. However, there are three exceptions to the full-time study rule. Special permission from OISS must be obtained **prior** to reducing course load.

Academic Exceptions

A student encountering academic difficulties due to one or more of the reasons below may be authorized by OISS for less than a full-time course load. This authorization is valid only for one semester (usually in the first year) and you must resume a full course of study in the next available semester.

- initial English language difficulties or reading requirements
- unfamiliarity with U.S. teaching methods
- improper course level placement

To reduce your course load based on an academic exception, you must request approval from OISS prior to dropping below full-time study. You can do this by completing the [Reduced Course Load based on Academic Exception Request Form](#), which must be signed by your Academic Dean.

Final Semester Exception

A student needing less than full-time enrollment in the **final** semester of the program to complete degree requirements may study less than full-time. This information will flow to OISS through the Student Information System reporting your final semester course load, so prior approval in most cases is not required. However, remember that once you are registered less than full-time based on the final semester, extensions of your I-20 to continue the program are not permitted.

Illness or Medical Condition

If a student has a temporary illness or medical condition that prevents or interferes with full-time study, a student is eligible for a period of authorized reduced course load for up to an aggregate total of 12 months for each academic program. Prior approval from OISS is required. You must submit the following to OISS:

- A written statement from a Yale Health physician requiring or recommending an interruption or reduction in studies
- Written confirmation from the school or department that the student is dropping below full-time due to a temporary illness or medical condition