**18. ACADEMIC PROGRESS AND GRADUATION**

**18.1 Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**

In accordance with the Federal Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy 34 CFR 668.34, students enrolled in GMS are expected to adhere to the GMS Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy and guidelines from matriculation through graduation. All degree candidates’ academic records will be reviewed at the end of each semester by the programs in which they are enrolled to ensure that they achieve SAP. A student who fails to achieve SAP may be subject to academic action, including academic probation and/or dismissal. Further, students who fail to maintain SAP will not be eligible for the University certification to apply for federal and private educational loans.

The following criteria will be used to determine SAP at the GMS level. However, individual degree programs may have additional and/or varied academic standards that must also be met to remain in compliance.

**18.11 GPA Requirement**

* The minimum cumulative GPA requirement for graduation is 2.70.
* A student who has a cumulative GPA of 2.69 or below and/or has not met program-specific academic standards will require a specific learning plan and will be put on Academic Probation for the duration of one (1) semester. Learning plans must be developed in consultation with a student’s faculty advisor and/or program director and should be monitored closely as the semester progresses.
* A student who is receiving federal and/or private financial assistance must maintain a cumulative GAP of 2.70. A cumulative GPA of 2.69 or below will result in suspension of federal and/or private financial assistance.
* If remedial work is imminent (i.e. prior to start of the following semester), then the financial assistance suspension will be placed on hold until results from the remedial work is incorporated into the cumulative GPA. Otherwise, the financial assistance will be suspended.
* A student whose federal/private financial assistance has been suspended due to a failure to meet the GMS SAP has an opportunity to appeal the suspension by submitting the following documents to the GMS Financial Administrator.

-A detailed letter of explanation for the low academic performance

-A detailed plan to improve the academic performances and a timeline to successfully complete the program

-A letter of support from his/her Program Director supporting the plan for academic improvement and a timeline for successful completion of the program