Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for students in receipt of US Direct Loans

All students receiving US Direct Loans are required to be in good standing and to maintain satisfactory academic progress towards their degree requirements at UCL each term whilst they are enrolled. Failure to maintain satisfactory progress may result in cancellation of their student loan(s) and the student may have to repay funds already received.

Details on assessment and progression for students can be found at: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/srs/academic-regulations

Students receiving US Direct Loans will be evaluated before each loan disbursement. This evaluation process will consider the student’s progress against the requirements stipulated in the assessment manuals applicable to their degree and level. The loan regulations state that satisfactory progress requires students to be on course to pass their programme at a Grade C or above (UCL translates a Grade C as 50%). Also, all undergraduate students must complete their educational program within a time frame no longer than 150% of the published length of the course. Periods of interruption will not count towards this calculation.

Failing to make SAP: Students that fail to make Satisfactory Academic Progress will firstly be issued with a ‘Financial Aid Warning’ by email. This warning will last for 1 payment period (ie until the next disbursement), during which time a student can still receive Financial Aid. Students that fail to regain Satisfactory Academic Progress by the next disbursement will no longer be eligible for Aid, unless they are successful in an appeal (see below).

Students failing SAP after a ‘Financial Aid Warning’ can appeal to be given a probation period in order to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress. If after this probation period they do not meet the requirements, the student will lose their entitlement to US Direct Loans.

Probation and Appeals: Students will be notified by email if US Direct Loans are to be suspended on the basis of their academic progress report. Any student wishing to appeal in this event should contact the Student Funding Office on us-cdn-loans@ucl.ac.uk within 10 working days of the issue date of the original suspension of funds email.

The student should specify the exceptional circumstances that led to the poor academic performance and state the reasons why those circumstances will not affect future academic progress. Each case will be individually reviewed and the Head of Student Funding will use his or her professional judgment to determine if the original situation has been resolved to the point where the student can reasonably be expected to succeed and issue a one time waiver of SAP for the next term. If the student still does not make satisfactory progress, then he or she will be ineligible for future aid. The decision of the Head of Student Funding may differ from that of the College in that a student may be readmitted to the programme but may not be eligible for financial aid.