

To: Recipients of Merit Scholarships from Southwestern University

From: James Gaeta, Director of Student Financial Assistance

Subject: Important change in merit scholarship renewal requirements

Date: April 7, 2010

I am writing to inform you of important changes to the renewal terms of the academic merit scholarship you received to attend Southwestern. As you may recall from your scholarship letter, merit awards are renewed automatically if a student remains enrolled full-time and earns a 3.0 cumulative GPA for the academic year.

**After much discussion, the University's administration has determined that students should remain eligible for renewal of their merit scholarships if they are enrolled full-time and maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP). SAP requires that you maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and complete at least 80% of all attempted course credits at SU. Southwestern's Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for Financial Aid may be found at <http://www.southwestern.edu/assistance/policies.php> . This change in policy will supersede the terms outlined in your original scholarship letter and will take effect on May 10, 2010.**

To help your understanding of this policy change, we have developed a Frequently Asked Questions page on this topic at the Office of Student Financial Assistance website. You may find this page at <http://www.southwestern.edu/assistance/meritfaq.php>. We invite you to review this page as it contains answers to questions that you may have about the new policy.

It is our hope that this SAP policy change will lessen the anxiety and stress our students and families are feeling, particularly in these challenging times. We feel this change will allow students to focus their attention on learning, taking rigorous courses that will enrich their educational experience and expand their understanding of the world.

If after reviewing the FAQ page you still have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or the Office of Student Financial Assistance at [finaid@southwestern.edu](mailto:finaid@southwestern.edu).

Sincerely,  
James Gaeta  
Director of Student Financial Assistance  
Southwestern University