

Federal Financial Aid

To be considered for federal financial aid, students must submit a FAFSA each year after October 1 and prior to April 1 to allow for processing. By submitting the FAFSA, a student is automatically considered for federal Title IV aid based on household EFC. Students must also enroll in an eligible Title IV program of study. Upon completion of the FAFSA an initial estimated aid offer is made to the student. The initial offer is subject to change based on corrections to the FAFSA made by the student and/or Financial Aid Office through verification. The US Department of Education determines a student's initial Title IV eligibility which may change based on enrollment, satisfactory academic progress and other factors. There are four primary sources of Title IV funding, including Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work Study, and Direct Stafford Loans.

Federal Title IV aid, except for work study funds, pays for the cost of tuition, fees, room, and board first. Any funds that remain after those charges can be used at the College's bookstore. Should funds remain after book purchases, the student will be issued a refund according to the disbursement and refund policy. Students must have all verification and admission requirements complete and aid must be on the students account to purchase books and/or have a refund.

Pell Grants

Pell grants are the cornerstone of the Title IV aid program. These grants do not have to be repaid. The maximum Pell grant amount can vary year to year, based on congressional action. A student's full Pell grant amount is determined by the federal formula used by the FAFSA and is based on the student's EFC (expected family contribution). Pell grants are automatically packaged and viewable in the OneACCS student portal. Students do not have to accept the Pell grant.

A student's amount of Pell grant is based on the student's enrollment status. Students must take classes that are required for their program of study/major. Courses outside the program of study/major cannot be paid for with Pell grant. See the following illustration of enrollment and Pell grant eligibility (for simplicity, assume full Pell is \$1,000 per semester).

Enrollment	Current Hours	Pell Grant Amount Paid
Full Time	12 credit hours or more	\$1000 – full Pell
Three-Quarter	9 to 11 credit hours	\$ 750 – three-quarter Pell
Half-Time	6 to 8 credit hours	\$ 500 – half-time Pell
Less Than Half Time	1 to 5 credit hours	\$ 250 – less than half-time Pell

Enrollment for Pell grant eligibility is captured once a semester, typically after the first attendance verification and reinstatement period has ended. The Financial Aid Office will freeze a student's enrollment. Financial Aid is then released to pay charges and the Business Office begins the refund process based on the hours captured for financial aid purposes. After the Financial Aid freeze date, a student's Pell grant eligibility will not be recalculated, unless the student fails to begin attending in a later term. See the following examples.

- Example 1 – At the beginning of the semester, a student enrolls in 12 credit hours and after drop/add, prior to the freeze date, withdraws from 3 credit hours. The freeze will capture 9 hours of enrollment and the student will be charged for 12 hours of enrollment.
- Example 2 – At the beginning of the semester, a student enrolls in 9 credit hours and after the freeze date, decides to add a 3 hour Mini Term 2 class. The freeze will capture 9 credit hours of enrollment and the student will be paid three-quarters of the Pell grant and will be charged for all 12 hours.

Pell grant is offered/awarded based on a student's enrollment. Pell grant is released to pay student accounts as attendance is verified. Students enrolled in mini terms and modules will have their Pell grant paid as attendance in those mini terms and modules is verified. Students who are attending mini term and module classes only and register just prior to the class starting will receive Pell if all eligibility requirements are met. Attendance is verified by instructors and classes

are removed from a student's schedule if they are not attending. This will cause an adjustment to financial aid. Students are notified of this via their student email. If a student believes they have actually attended the class, they need to follow the instructions in the email.

Federal Pell grant has a lifetime eligibility limit of 600% which is the equivalent of 6 years or 12 semesters of full time Pell usage. Once a student reaches this limit, there is no more Pell eligibility and there is no appeal of this limit.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)

The FSEOG is awarded to students who have the lowest EFC as determined by the FAFSA. There is a limited amount of funding for FSEOG, and it is awarded based on lowest EFC and earliest FAFSA submission/completion date. Awards are system generated. Students are encouraged to submit their FAFSA as early as possible. Not all students who qualify will be awarded. Awards made to students who do not enroll or enroll less than half-time are removed and then awarded to students who meet the previous criteria. Students do not have to accept FSEOG via OneACCS.

Federal Work Study Program (FWS)

The FWS program provides jobs for students who have financial need. The number of hours a student may work is determined by the student's unmet financial need (COA less EFC = unmet need). Students are typically paid a minimum of \$9 an hour and are paid monthly via student payroll.

FWS is paid for jobs on campus that include the library, residence halls, administrative offices, cafeteria, facilities, and grounds, and even off campus jobs with public or private nonprofit agencies. The work study advisor will determine the number of hours a student may work a week based on the student's unmet need, class schedule and academic progress.

Job assignments are made according to the date students complete their file and receive a Federal Work Study award. The student's job preference and skills are given first consideration; however, other factors may determine final job placement.

Not all students who want jobs or are eligible can be placed since FWS funding is limited. The forms that need to be completed are available on the College website.