

## § 690.1

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AUTHORITY: 20 U.S.C. 1070a, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A—Scope, Purpose and General Definitions

SOURCE: 50 FR 10717, Mar. 15, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 690.1 Scope and purpose.

The Federal Pell Grant Program awards grants to help financially needy students meet the cost of their postsecondary education.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a)

[50 FR 10717, Mar. 15, 1985, as amended at 59 FR 54730, Nov. 1, 1994]

#### § 690.2 Definitions.

(a) The following definitions are contained in the regulations for Institutional Eligibility under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, 34 CFR part 600:

Award year  
Clock hour  
Correspondence course  
Secretary

State

(b) The following definitions are contained in subpart A of the Student Assistance General Provisions, 34 CFR part 668:

Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) Program  
Academic year  
Dependent student  
Eligible program  
Enrolled  
Expected family contribution  
Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program  
Federal Pell Grant Program  
Federal Perkins Loan Program  
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program  
Federal Work-Study Program  
Full-time student  
HEA  
Independent student  
National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) Program  
Parent  
Payment period  
William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program

(c) Other terms used in this part are:  
*Annual award:* The Federal Pell Grant award amount a full-time student would receive under the Payment Schedule for a full academic year in an award year, and the amount a three-quarter-time, half-time, and less-than-half-time student would receive under the appropriate Disbursement Schedule for being enrolled in that enrollment status for a full academic year in an award year.

*Central processor:* An organization under contract with the Secretary that calculates an applicant's expected family contribution based on the applicant's application information, transmits an ISIR to each institution designated by the applicant, and submits reports to the Secretary on the correctness of its computations of the expected family contribution amounts and the accuracy of the answers to questions on application forms for the previous award year cycle.

*Disbursement Schedule:* A table showing the annual awards that three-quarter, half-time, and less-than-half-time students at term-based institutions using credit hours would receive for an academic year. This table is published

annually by the Secretary and is based on—

- (1) A student's expected family contribution, as determined in accordance with title IV, part F of the HEA; and
- (2) A student's attendance costs as defined in title IV, part F of the HEA.
- (3) The amount of funds available for making Federal Pell Grants.

*Electronic Data Exchange:* An electronic exchange system between the central processor and an institution under which—

- (1) A student is able to transmit his or her application information to the central processor through his or her institution and an ISIR is transmitted back to the institution;
- (2) A student through his or her institution is able to transmit any changes in application information to the central processor; and
- (3) An institution is able to receive an ISIR from the central processor for a student.

*Eligible student:* An eligible student as described in 34 CFR part 668, subpart C.

*Enrollment status:* Full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time, or less-than-half-time depending on a student's credit-hour work load per academic term at an institution using semesters, trimesters, quarters, or other academic terms and measuring progress by credit hours.

*Half-time student:* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), an enrolled student who is carrying a half-time academic work load—as determined by the institution—which amounts to at least half the work load of the appropriate minimum requirement outlined in the definition of a full-time student.

(2) A student enrolled solely in a program of study by correspondence who is carrying a work load of at least 12 hours of work per week, or is earning at least 6 credit hours per semester, trimester or quarter. However, regardless of the work, no student enrolled solely in correspondence study is considered more than a half-time student.

*Institution of higher education (Institution).* An institution of higher education, or a proprietary institution of higher education, or a postsecondary vocational institution as defined in 34 CFR part 600.

*Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR):* An electronic record that the Secretary transmits to an institution that includes an applicant's—

- (1) Personal identification information;
- (2) Application data used to calculate the applicant's EFC; and
- (3) EFC.

*Less-than-half-time student:* An enrolled student who is carrying less than half the work load of the appropriate minimum requirement outlined in the institution's definition of a full-time student.

*Payment Data:* An electronic record that is provided to the Secretary by an institution showing student disbursement information.

*Payment Schedule:* A table showing a full-time student's Scheduled Federal Pell Grant for an academic year. This table, published annually by the Secretary, is based on—

- (1) The student's EFC; and
- (2) The student's cost of attendance as defined in part F of title IV of the HEA.

*Scheduled Federal Pell Grant:* The amount of a Federal Pell Grant which would be paid to a full-time student for a full academic year.

*Student Aid Report (SAR):* A report provided to an applicant by the Secretary showing the amount of his or her expected family contribution.

*Three-quarter-time student:* An enrolled student who is carrying a three-quarter-time academic work load—as determined by the institution—which amounts to at least three quarters of the work of the appropriate minimum requirement outlined in the definition of a "full-time student" as defined in 34 CFR part 668.

*Undergraduate student:* A student enrolled in an undergraduate course of study at an institution of higher education who—

- (1) Has not earned a baccalaureate or first professional degree; and
- (2) Is in an undergraduate course of study which usually does not exceed 4 academic years, or is enrolled in a 4 to 5 academic year program designed to lead to a first degree. A student enrolled in a program of any other length is considered an undergraduate student

for only the first 4 academic years of that program.

*Valid Institutional Student Information Record (valid ISIR):* An ISIR on which all the information used in calculating the applicant’s expected family contribution is accurate and complete as of the date the application is signed.

*Valid Student Aid Report:* A Student Aid Report on which all of the information used in calculating the applicant’s expected family contribution is accurate and complete as of the date the application is signed.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a)

[50 FR 10717, Mar. 15, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 41926, Nov. 19, 1986; 51 FR 43161, Nov. 28, 1986; 52 FR 38207, Oct. 14, 1987; 52 FR 45735, Dec. 1, 1987; 56 FR 56916, Nov. 6, 1991; 59 FR 54730, Nov. 1, 1994; 60 FR 61816, Dec. 1, 1995; 61 FR 60396, Nov. 27, 1996; 61 FR 60610, Nov. 29, 1996; 69 FR 12276, Mar. 16, 2004; 71 FR 38004, July 3, 2006]

§§ 690.3–690.5 [Reserved]

**§ 690.6 Duration of student eligibility—undergraduate course of study and eligible postbaccalaureate program.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section, a student is eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant for the period of time required to complete his or her first undergraduate baccalaureate course of study.

(b) An institution shall determine when the student has completed the academic curriculum requirements for that first undergraduate baccalaureate course of study. Any noncredit or remedial course taken by a student, including a course in English language instruction, is not included in the institution’s determination of that student’s period of Federal Pell Grant eligibility.

(c) An otherwise eligible student who has a baccalaureate degree and is enrolled in a postbaccalaureate program is eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant for the period of time necessary to complete the program if—

(1) The postbaccalaureate program consists of courses that are required by a State for the student to receive a professional certification or licensing credential that is required for employment as a teacher in an elementary or secondary school in that State;

(2) The postbaccalaureate program does not lead to a graduate degree;

(3) The institution offering the postbaccalaureate program does not also offer a baccalaureate degree in education;

(4) The student is enrolled as at least a half-time student; and

(5) The student is pursuing an initial teacher certification or licensing credential within a State.

(d) An institution must treat a student who receives a Federal Pell Grant under paragraph (c) of this section as an undergraduate student enrolled in an undergraduate program for title IV purposes.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a)

[52 FR 38207, Oct. 14, 1987, as amended at 59 FR 54730-54731, Nov. 1, 1994; 64 FR 58294, Oct. 28, 1999]

**§ 690.7 Institutional participation.**

(a) An institution may not participate in the Federal Pell Grant Program if the institution—

(1) Offers at least one eligible program for purposes of the ACG Program, as defined in 34 CFR 691.2(d), but does not participate in the ACG Program; or

(2) Offers at least one eligible program for purposes of the National SMART Grant Program, as defined in 34 CFR 691.2(d), but does not participate in the National SMART Grant Program.

(b) If an institution begins participation in the Federal Pell Grant Program during an award year, a student enrolled and attending that institution is eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant for the payment period during which the institution enters into a program participation agreement with the Secretary and any subsequent payment period.

(c) If an institution becomes ineligible to participate in the Federal Pell Grant Program during an award year, an eligible student who was attending the institution and who submitted a valid SAR to the institution, or for whom the institution obtained a valid ISIR, before the date the institution became ineligible is paid a Federal Pell Grant for that award year for—

(1) The payment periods that the student completed before the institution became ineligible; and