

§ 691.76

34 CFR Ch. VI (7–1–07 Edition)

(3) If enrolled in a self-paced credit-hour program without terms or a self-paced clock-hour program, as described in paragraph (e), is progressing as a full-time student after completing at least—

(i) Fifty percent of the credit or clock hours of the payment period for which the student is being paid; or

(ii) For a credit-hour program, 50 percent of the academic coursework of the payment period for which the student is being paid if the institution is unable to determine when the student has completed one-half of the credit hours of the payment period; and

(4) If enrolled in a credit-hour program without terms or a clock-hour program, has completed the payment period as defined in 34 CFR 668.4 for which he or she has been paid a grant.

(b)(1) If an institution determines at the beginning of a payment period that a student is not maintaining satisfactory progress, but reverses that determination before the end of the payment period, the institution may pay a grant under this part to the student for the entire payment period.

(2) For purposes of the ACG Program, if an institution determines at the beginning of a payment period that a student enrolled in the second academic year of his or her eligible program is not maintaining the necessary GPA for an ACG under § 691.15(b)(1)(iii)(C), but reverses that determination before the end of the payment period, the institution may pay an ACG to the student for the entire payment period.

(3) For purposes of the National SMART Grant Program, if an institution determines at the beginning of a payment period that a student is not maintaining the necessary GPA for a National SMART Grant under § 691.15(c)(3) or is not pursuing a required major under § 691.15(c)(2), but reverses that determination before the end of the payment period, the institution may pay a National SMART Grant to the student for the entire payment period.

(c) If an institution determines at the beginning of a payment period that a student is not maintaining satisfactory progress or the necessary GPA for an ACG under § 691.15(b)(1)(iii)(C), a National SMART Grant under

§ 691.15(c)(3), or, in the case of a National SMART Grant is not pursuing a required major under § 691.15(c)(2), but reverses that determination after the end of the payment period, the institution may neither pay the student an ACG or a National SMART Grant for that payment period nor make adjustments in subsequent payments to compensate for the loss of aid for that period.

(d) Subject to the requirement of paragraph (d)(2), an institution may make one disbursement for a payment period to an otherwise eligible student if—

(1)(i) For the first payment period of the student's ACG for the second academic year, a student's GPA for the first academic year under § 691.15(b)(1)(iii)(C) is not yet available; or

(ii) For a payment period for a National SMART Grant, a student's cumulative GPA through the prior payment period under § 691.15(c)(3) for the student's enrollment in the eligible program through the prior payment period under § 691.15(c)(3) is not yet available; and

(2) The institution assumes liability for any overpayment as a result of the student failing to meet the required GPA to qualify for the disbursement.

(e) For purposes of this section, a self-paced program is an educational program without terms that allows a student—

(1) To complete courses without a defined schedule for completing the courses; or

(2) At the student's discretion, to begin courses within a program either at any time or on specific dates set by the institution for the beginning of courses without a defined schedule for completing the program.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a–1)

[71 FR 38004, July 3, 2006, as amended at 71 FR 64419, Nov. 1, 2006]

§ 691.76 Frequency of payment.

(a) In each payment period, an institution may pay a student at such times and in such installments as it determines will best meet the student's needs.

(b) The institution may pay funds in one lump sum for all the prior payment periods for which the student was eligible under §691.15 within the award year. The student must have completed the prior payment period as a full-time student.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-1)

§ 691.77 [Reserved]

§ 691.78 Method of disbursement—by check or credit to a student’s account.

(a) An institution shall disburse funds to a student or the student’s account in accordance with the provisions in 34 CFR 668.164.

(b)(1) An institution that intends to pay a student directly must notify the student in accordance with 34 CFR 668.165(a).

(2) If a student does not pick up the check on time, the institution shall still pay the student if he or she requests payment within 20 days after the last date that his or her enrollment ends in that award year.

(3) If the student has not picked up his or her payment at the end of the 20-day period, the institution may credit the student’s account only for any outstanding charges for tuition and fees and room and board for the award year incurred by the student while he or she was eligible.

(4) A student forfeits the right to receive the payment if he or she does not pick up a payment by the end of the 20-day period.

(5) Notwithstanding paragraph (c)(4) of this section, the institution may, if it chooses, pay a student who did not pick up his or her payment, through the next payment period.

(6) An institution shall make a late disbursement to an ineligible student in accordance with the provisions in 34 CFR 668.164(g).

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-1)

[71 FR 38004, July 3, 2006, as amended at 71 FR 64419, Nov. 1, 2006]

§ 691.79 Liability for and recovery of grant overpayments.

(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this section, a student is liable for any grant overpay-

ment made to him or her under this part.

(2) The institution is liable for a grant overpayment if the overpayment occurred because the institution failed to follow the procedures set forth in this part or 34 CFR part 668. The institution must restore an amount equal to the overpayment to its ACG or National SMART Grant account, as applicable.

(3) A student is not liable for, and the institution is not required to attempt recovery of or refer to the Secretary, a grant overpayment under this part if the amount of the overpayment is less than \$25 and is not a remaining balance.

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, if an institution makes an overpayment under this part for which it is not liable, it must promptly send a written notice to the student requesting repayment of the overpayment amount. The notice must state that failure to make that repayment, or to make arrangements satisfactory to the holder of the overpayment debt to repay the overpayment, makes the student ineligible for further title IV, HEA program funds until final resolution of the overpayment.

(2) If a student objects to the institution’s overpayment determination on the grounds that it is erroneous, the institution must consider any information provided by the student and determine whether the objection is warranted.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, if the student fails to repay an overpayment under this part or make arrangements satisfactory to the holder of the overpayment debt to repay the overpayment, after the institution has taken the action required by paragraph (b) of this section, the institution must refer the overpayment to the Secretary for collection purposes in accordance with procedures required by the Secretary. After referring the overpayment to the Secretary under this section, the institution need make no further efforts to recover the overpayment.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-1)