

§§ 691.3–691.5 [Reserved]

**§ 691.6 Duration of student eligibility—
undergraduate course of study.**

(a) A student is eligible to receive up to one ACG Scheduled Award during each of the student's first and second academic years of enrollment over the course of the student's enrollment at an institution in all eligible programs as defined in § 691.2(d).

(b) A student is eligible to receive up to one National SMART Grant Scheduled Award during each of the student's third and fourth academic years of enrollment over the course of the student's enrollment at an institution in all eligible programs as defined in § 691.2(d).

(c) A student may not receive more than two ACG Scheduled Awards and two National SMART Grant Scheduled Awards during the student's undergraduate education in all eligible programs.

(d)(1)(i) Institutions must count credit or clock hours earned by a student toward a student's completion of the credit or clock hours of an academic year if the institution accepts those hours toward the student's eligible program, including credit or clock hours that are earned—

(A) From Advanced Placement (AP) programs, International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, testing out, life experience, or similar competency measures; or

(B) At an institution while not enrolled as a regular student in an eligible program.

(ii) Institutions may not count credit or clock hours awarded for coursework that is at less than the postsecondary level, such as remedial coursework. These credit or clock hours may not be considered in determining the credit or clock hours that a student has completed in an academic year.

(2)(i) An institution may not assign any weeks of instructional time to credit or clock hours accepted toward meeting the student's eligible program if the student earned the credit or clock hours—

(A) From Advanced Placement (AP) programs, International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, testing out, life experience, or similar competency measures;

(B) At a postsecondary institution while not enrolled as a regular student in an eligible program except as provided in paragraph (d)(2)(ii) of this section; or

(C) For coursework that is not at the postsecondary level, such as remedial coursework.

(ii) An institution must assign weeks of instructional time to determining National SMART Grant eligibility for periods in which a student was enrolled in an ACG eligible program prior to declaring, or certifying his or her intent to declare, an eligible major.

(3)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (d)(2)(ii) of this section, for a transfer student, an institution determining the academic years completed by the student must count—

(A) The number of credit or clock hours earned by the student at prior institutions that comply with paragraph (d)(1) of this section, and that the institution accepts on transfer into the student's eligible program; and

(B) The weeks of instructional time, except as prohibited in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, determined by multiplying the number of credit or clock hours that the institution accepts on transfer by the number of weeks of instructional time in the academic year and dividing the product of the multiplication by the credit or clock hours in the academic year.

(ii) For a student who transfers into an eligible program for which an institution determines estimated weeks of instructional time under paragraph (h) of this section, the institution must apply the credits accepted on transfer into the student's eligible program when determining the student's grade level in accordance with paragraphs (d)(2) and (h) of this section.

(e)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (e)(2) of this section, an institution must determine a student's progression in the weeks of instructional time of an academic year through an exact accounting of those weeks of instructional time.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (h)(2)(iii) of this section, an institution may use, on an eligible program-by-program basis, an alternative method

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to determine the weeks of instructional time taken by its students during an academic year under paragraphs (f), (g), and (h) of this section if the institution—

(i) Determines payments for the student's eligible program under § 691.63(b) or (c);

(ii) Uses, for all students enrolled in the eligible program for whom an exact accounting is not performed, the same alternative method described in paragraph (f), (g), or (h) of this section to determine the students' progression in the weeks of instructional time of an academic year; and

(iii) Upon request from a student, performs an exact accounting of the student's academic year progression for that student based on the actual weeks of instructional time the student attended in all eligible programs at the institution and on any qualifying credit or clock hours accepted on transfer into the student's eligible program.

(3) An institution may not use an alternative method under paragraphs (f), (g), or (h) of this section if it performs an exact accounting for a student, including an accounting pursuant to paragraph (e)(2)(iii) of this section. Once an institution initiates an exact accounting for a student under this section, the institution must use the determination for that student based on the exact accounting and not the determination based on an alternative method.

(f)(1) For an eligible program for which the institution determines payments under § 691.63(b) or (c), an institution may determine a student's completion of the weeks of instructional time in an academic year under the procedures set forth in paragraphs (f)(2) and (f)(3) of this section.

(2) For an eligible student enrolled in an eligible program that has a single summer term that provides at least 12 semester, trimester, or quarter hours of coursework and for which payments are calculated under § 691.63(b), the student's term is considered to be—

(i) For an eligible program offered in semesters or trimesters, one-half of an academic year in weeks of instructional time if payments may be determined under § 691.63(b)(3)(i), or one-

third of an academic year in weeks of instructional time if payments may be determined under § 691.63(b)(3)(ii); or

(ii) For an eligible program offered in quarters that has a single summer term, one-third of an academic year in weeks of instructional time if payments may be determined under § 691.63(b)(3)(i), or one-fourth of an academic year in weeks of instructional time if payments may be determined under § 691.63(b)(3)(ii).

(3) For an eligible student enrolled in an eligible program with a single summer term that provides at least 12 semester, trimester, or quarter hours of coursework for which the institution may determine payments under § 691.63(c), the student's term is considered to be—

(i) For an eligible program offered in semesters or trimesters, one-half of the weeks of instructional time in the fall through spring terms if payments may be determined under § 691.63(c)(4)(i), or one-third of an academic year in weeks of instructional time if payments may be determined under § 691.63(c)(4)(ii); or

(ii) For an eligible program offered in quarters, one-third of the weeks of instructional time in the fall through spring terms if payments may be determined under § 691.63(c)(4)(i), or one-fourth of an academic year in weeks of instructional time if payments may be determined under § 691.63(c)(4)(ii).

(g)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, an institution with an eligible program for which the institution determines payments under § 691.63(b) or (c) may determine a student's completion of the weeks of instructional time in an academic year under the procedures set forth in paragraph (g)(2) or (g)(3) of this section.

(2) For an eligible student enrolled in an eligible program for which payments may be determined under § 691.63(b), an institution must determine the number of weeks a student is considered to have completed in an academic year by multiplying the number of credit hours a student has earned in an eligible program by the number of weeks of instructional time in the academic year and dividing the product of the multiplication by the credit or clock hours in the academic year.

(3) For an eligible student enrolled in an eligible program for which payments may be determined under § 691.63(c), an institution must determine the number of weeks a student is considered to have completed in an academic year by multiplying the number of credit hours a student has earned in an eligible program by the number of weeks of instructional time in the fall through spring terms and dividing the product of the multiplication by the credit or clock hours in the academic year.

(h)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, an institution with an eligible program for which the institution determines payments under § 691.63(b) or (c) may determine a student's completion of the weeks of instructional time in an academic year under the procedures set forth in paragraph (h)(2) and (h)(3) of this section.

(2) A student at a grade level can be assumed to have completed an academic year for each of the prior grade levels if for each grade level of a student's eligible program—

(i) A student has completed at least the minimum credit hours for the prior academic years for that program in accordance with this section; and

(ii) Most full-time students in the student's eligible program complete the weeks of instructional time of an academic year during the period of completing each grade level as determined in accordance with paragraph (h)(3) of this section.

(3)(i) For purposes of an award year, in making a determination under paragraph (h)(2)(ii) of this section, an institution must first determine that at least two-thirds of the full-time, full-year students complete at least the weeks of instructional time of an academic year while completing each grade level during the three most recently completed award years prior to the award year immediately preceding the award year for which the determination is made.

(ii) For each of the ACG or National SMART Grant Programs, an institution may make a determination under paragraph (h)(3)(i) of this section on an eligible program basis or an institutional basis.

(iii) An institution that makes a determination under paragraph (h)(3)(i) of this section on an institutional basis must use the alternative method in paragraph (h) of this section for all students at the institution for whom it does not perform an exact accounting of the weeks of instructional time completed.

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§ 691.7 Institutional participation.

(a) An institution that offers one or more eligible programs, as defined in § 691.2(d), for purposes of the ACG Program, and that participates in the Federal Pell Grant Program under 34 CFR part 690 must participate in the ACG Program.

(b) An institution that offers one or more eligible programs, as defined in § 691.2(d), for purposes of the National SMART Grant Program, and that participates in the Federal Pell Grant Program under 34 CFR part 690 must participate in the National SMART Grant Program.

(c) If an institution begins participation in the ACG or National SMART Grant Program during an award year, a student enrolled and attending that institution is eligible to receive a grant under this part for the payment period during which the institution begins participation and any subsequent payment period.

(d) If an institution becomes ineligible to participate in the ACG or National SMART Grant Program during an award year, a student who was eligible for a grant under § 691.15 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 grant for that award year for—

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

(2) The payment period in which the institution became ineligible.

(e)(1) If an institution loses its eligibility to participate in the Federal Pell Grant Program under the provisions of subpart M of 34 CFR part 668, it also