

Federal Pell Grant Program Policy

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduates to promote access to postsecondary education. The application for a Pell Grant is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), but eligible students must complete all required missing documents to receive the grant. Pell Grant awards are based on the 9-month Student Aid Index (SAI) on the student's valid FAFSA, the academic year structure, and the Cost of Attendance (COA) for a full-time student for a full academic year. To receive a Pell Grant, a student must meet the general eligibility requirements for Title IV aid. Students must also meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Submit all required financial aid documents (Have a complete FA file)
- Resolve Correction Flags, Verification, and any other items determined by the Department of Education
- Not be in default and/or owe an overpayment on a federal grant or loan
- Be perusing approved program of study
- Not be incarcerated
- Be maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Not exceeded 600% Pell Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) Limits

Under these continuing appropriations, for the 2025-2026 award year, the maximum Pell Grant award remains fixed at \$7,395. Students may receive up to 150% of their maximum award if the enrollment criteria is met. Students who are close to 600% Pell LEU should contact the Financial Aid Office to determine their Pell Grant eligibility.

Students may only receive federal aid at one institution at a time. If a student is concurrently enrolled, the student must determine which institution will be awarding and disbursing the funds.

The scheduled annual amounts are specified in [Calculating Pell Grants](#) in the 2025-2026 Federal Student Aid Handbook. The scheduled award is the maximum amount a student can receive during the award year.

Students may receive Pell Grants for up to 12 semesters, measured by the percentage of scheduled awards disbursed (Pell LEU up to 600%). A student is ineligible to receive a Pell Grant if they have 600% or greater of LEU. This limitation is not limited to students who received their first Pell Grant on or after July 1, 2008.

In the event a student attended a college that is now closed, the Financial Aid Office will review the student's account for potential Pell eligibility restoration.

The Financial Aid Office uses Formula 1 when awarding Pell for an Undergraduate Program. Formula 1 is used for standard-term consisting of fall and spring semesters.

- Undergraduate academic year is 24 credits and 32 weeks

When awarding Pell, the Financial Aid Office will:

1. Calculate Pell COA
2. Determine Maximum Annual Award (enrollment intensity is taken from the [Federal Pell Eligibility Criteria](#))
3. Determine Enrollment Status (based on enrollment intensity and COA) per Payment Period

Hartnell College recognizes one Pell Grant recalculation date for semester-based programs.

The Financial Aid Office will calculate the remaining eligibility of the Scheduled Award that has been used for transfer students who have received the Pell Grant at another institution.

Pell Grant funds are disbursed based on enrollment per term and are disbursed directly onto the student's account. Pell Grant funds will be posted to the student's account once the term begins and the student is in active attendance. Students who receive a Federal Pell Grant and who have a projected credit on his/her account after tuition and fees are paid, will have funds released to their selected refund preference with BankMobile Disbursements, a technology solution, powered by BMTX, Inc. Please refer to the Credit Balance Policy for more information.

Pell Grants must be recalculated any time there is a change in the SAI, or a change in enrollment intensity between terms or within a term. If a student dies while in attendance, an R2T4 calculation is required and the institution must return the Title IV funds for which it is responsible.

Beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year, Pell-eligible students may receive up to 150% of their maximum award eligibility (not to exceed 600% lifetime limits) for extra payment periods attended. Students eligible for Year-Round Pell awards are subject to the normal duration of eligibility rules and LEU limits.