

Year Round Pell Grant



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The Department of Education has announced that students that are eligible for Pell Grant may be able to receive a third disbursement of Pell Grant during the Summer term.

The general rules are that students must be eligible for Pell Grant as determined by the Department of Education, and must be enrolled at least half-time for the summer semester. Half-time enrollment is six credit hours for undergraduate students. Graduate students are not eligible for Pell Grant.

Here is an example of how Year Round Pell Grant will work. A student with a zero EFC (expected family contribution) is eligible for \$5,920 in Pell Grant for the year, or \$2,960 for the fall semester and \$2,960 for spring semester (based on full-time enrollment both semesters). Under the old rules, that student would not receive any Pell Grant if they enrolled for the summer semester. Under the new year round Pell Grant initiative, that student would receive an additional \$2,960 disbursement if they were to enroll full-time (12 credit hours) for summer or up to a maximum of \$8,880 for the entire academic year. If the student enrolled half-time, he or she would receive \$1,480 of Pell Grant for summer, or one-half of a full disbursement. Pell Grant alone is not enough to cover the full cost of attending classes in the Summer.

It is important to note that this change will not result in extra Pell Grant being awarded to a student over the course of their undergraduate enrollment. The maximum timeframe that eligible students may receive Pell Grant is for the equivalent of twelve full-time semesters. In the past, a full-time student could receive only two disbursements per year. Now that student will be able to receive up to three Pell disbursements in one academic year.

Many students use all of their annual federal loan eligibility in the fall and spring semesters, leaving nothing remaining for summer. If possible, students are encouraged to reserve some of their annual federal loan eligibility to use in the summer.

Students that have been awarded Pell Grant are encouraged to contact the Financial Aid office for assistance with financial planning for the Summer enrollment period.