



TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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New Federal Policies Impacting Pell Grant Eligibility

Limit on Pell Grant Eligibility

Students who receive their first Pell Grant on or after July 1, 2008, will be eligible to receive a Pell Grant for as many as 18 semesters (full-time) or its equivalent if attending less than full-time. Pell Grant usage and remaining percentage available will be documented by the U.S. Department of Education on the Student Aid Report (SAR) that students receive via email after they file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year.

Second Pell Grant Award During the Academic Year

Previously, students were eligible to receive one Pell Grant award during the academic year usually divided equally between fall and spring semesters. Effective for the summer semester, 2009, and beyond, students may be eligible to receive up to two Pell Grant awards in one academic year in order to accelerate the completion of their program.

At Tidewater Community College, students must meet the following criteria in order to qualify to receive a second Pell Grant award within the same academic year:

- Continue to be Pell Grant eligible
- Be enrolled at least six credit hours or more during the summer semester
- Have received 100% of the first Pell Grant award for the academic year
- Have successfully completed (no F, U, or W grades counted) at least 24 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters or be enrolled in at least the 25 credit hour during the summer semester while still meeting the minimum six credit hour enrollment criteria.
- All awards will count toward the lifetime Pell eligibility limit.
- Hours earned during the summer semester will count towards the acceleration calculation in all subsequent semesters.

Example of a Second Pell Grant Award During the Academic Year

A student enrolls in the fall and spring semesters and receives a full-time Pell Grant Award of \$5,350. This award is divided equally between the two semesters and the student receives \$2,675 for fall and \$2,675 for spring. The student wishes to accelerate his/her program and enrolls full-time during the summer semester. Because the student successfully (no F, U, or W grades) completed 24 credit hours during fall and spring, and now enrolls full-time for summer semester, the student will receive another Pell Grant award in the amount of \$2,675 for summer.

Application for a Second Pell Grant Award During the Academic Year

Students interested in accelerating their program and who meet all of the criteria listed above may complete the Financial Aid Summer Grant Application 2010 in order to have their eligibility determined. The priority deadline to submit this application is April 15, 2010. This application is available online in the "forms" section of the TCC financial aid web page.

Transfer Students

If a student received 100% of the first Scheduled Award at another school, TCC will assume that the student completed an academic year.

If a student received less than 100% of their first Scheduled Award, we will assume that the student completed the same ratio of the academic year as the percentage of the first Scheduled Award utilized at the other school.

Impact on Future Summer Aid Awards

Beginning in the summer semester, 2011, we will review student FAFSA results for both the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years in order to determine which year will result in the highest Pell Grant award for the summer. This means that currently enrolled students who are interested in accelerating their program by taking summer courses should always submit their FAFSAs before the April 1 priority application deadline.

Special Circumstances

The Academic Year completion requirement can be waived if a financial aid administrator determines that the student was unable to complete the hours of the first academic year due to special circumstances beyond the student's control.

Special circumstances beyond a student's control may include, but are not limited to:

- Student withdrawing from classes due to documented illness;
- Student being unable to register for classes necessary to complete his or her program because the classes were not offered.

Assistance

If you have questions or need assistance, please visit any of the four campus financial aid offices.